



## TALBOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

215 Bay Street, Suite #5 | EASTON, MARYLAND 21601 | (P) 410-770-8058 (F) 410-770-8059

#### **Talbot County Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes from September 7, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chairman, Timothy G. Jones; Walter Chase, Ron Engle, Ted Bautz, Scott Beatty, Al Silverstein, Dr. Clay Railey, Jennifer Shull, Jean Weisman, Peter Dunbar, Jacqueline Wilson, Andrea Lev, Terenda Thomas, Mike Henry, Cassandra Vanhooser, Jennifer Williams

**Department of Economic Development Staff:** Sam Shoge, Ryan Snow, Kathy Megahan

**Attendees:** Scott Warner, Laura Heikes, Helga Einhorn, David Prossner, Jessica Morris, Tom Rider,

**Call to Order:** Mr. Tim Jones called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:02 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the August 3 meeting were presented. Mr. Al Silverstein moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Mr. Walter Chase seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous vote.

**Maryland Workforce Exchange Presentation:** David Prossner, Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

<https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Mr. Prossner gave the commission members a tour of the Exchange's new website. The focus of the new website is to make it easier for businesses to find new candidates for jobs and for job seekers to find new positions. The mission of the Workforce Exchange is to link businesses with the workforce.

Mr. Prossner pointed out the website gives job seekers the ability to find a job, post a resume, and learn about career and workforce information. Employers get up to date labor market information as well as the ability to post job openings and view available candidate resumes. Businesses can set up an account on the website to post jobs, but an account is not necessary to view market data. Also, candidates from outside of Maryland can take advantage of the websites resources.



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Computers and DLLR representatives are available to help job seekers in their search at the American Job Center, located at the Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulations offices in Easton. The center's resources are available for free to all residences of Kent, Queen Anne, Talbot and Dorchester Counties. Representatives from Chesapeake College partner with the Center to guide potential applicants through the process.

#### **DEDT Update:** Sam Shoge, Cassandra Vanhooser

Mr. Shoge reported the new Talbot County website is on schedule to be launched in October. He pointed out the importance of presenting Talbot County in an engaging way, and social media is a key component.

Ms. Vanhooser reported the draft legislation for the PACE program is on schedule to be presented to County Council by October. She additionally brought forward for discussion whether the draft legislation should include a requirement for an energy audit. Mr. Wanner reported that from his industry perspective, an energy audit was standard. Mr. Beatty agreed stating an audit helps determine whether financing an energy efficiency project would be worth it based on how much energy a company would save. Ms. Enloe further agreed stating an audit would help determine if an energy efficiency project would be feasible. She further mentioned that it makes sense for both the business and the lender.

A motion was made by Ms. Weisman and seconded by Mr. Silverstein to include in the PACE legislation a requirement for an energy audit. Ms. Vanhooser concluded the legislation would have a \$25,000 minimum for financing as discussed in a previous meeting.

Mr. Dunbar asked when the PACE legislation would be presented to the County Council and what the legislative process would look like. Assistant County Manager Jessica Morris gave an update on what the legislative process entails and what the timeline is.

#### **County Manager Report:** Jessica Morris

Ms. Morris gave a report on the County's broadband RFI. Request for information were sent out and eight companies showed interest and four submitted detailed information responding to the



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County's solicitation. The County is working with CTC, a technology consulting firm, to review proposals.

Ms. Morris reported on the following upcoming events:

#### **Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. - Annual Farm Tour hosted by the Extension Office, Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation District (agenda attached) – meet at Extension Office on Mary's Court in Easton

Susan has arranged for a bus from DCT so if you can get a headcount that would be great

#### **Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. – Talbot County Council hosting ceremony to commemorate events of 9/11/01 – intersection of Dover and West Streets in Easton

Open to the public

#### **Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 p.m. – Talbot County Courthouse to be lit purple for Talbot Goes Purple

Open to the public

#### **Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 p.m. – Talbot Goes Purple event with Guest Speaker Chris Herren – Easton High School auditorium

Open to the public

#### **Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Easton Airport Day

Open to the public

**Update on Knapps Narrow Dredging:** Ted Bautz raised the issue of the current status on the Knapps Narrows dredging. County Council President and EDC member Jennifer Williams, gave an update. She stated the dredging project has been approved by the Army Corp of Engineers; it is now up to Congress to allocate the funding. She emphasized it is dependent on our local representatives to advocate for dredging from a public safety perspective. Tilghman Island and Oxford fireboats as well as the Coast Guard require access.

**Chairman's Report:** Mr. Jones reminded members that his tenure as chairman will end soon and a new chair needs to be appointed. He also suggested that a copy of Economic Development Commission by-laws be distributed to all members.



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**Vice Chairman's Report:** Mr. Silverstein reported that the Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the health department to hold Narcan (Naloxone) training. Dates are available on the Chambers website.

**Department of Commerce Update:** Ms. Bowden mentioned she awarded Chesapeake Center and Celeste citations from the Maryland Department of Commerce for celebrating their 50 and 25 year anniversary. Furthermore, Ms. Bowden presented an update on More Jobs for Marylanders Act and Partnership for Workforce Quality.

**Member Updates:** Mr. Ron Engle from the Town of Easton presented an update regarding the closure of the Safeway grocery store in downtown Easton and how the Town is working with Safeway to have the non-compete clause lifted so the Town may be able to attract another grocer. The Town is also working with another service provider to provide food for the residents who were dependent on the Safeway because it was within walking distance to their residences.

Mike Henry reported Easton Airport received a \$90,000 FAA pavement management grant. Airport day is scheduled for Saturday Sept. 30.

Ms. Margaret Enloe reported that the Waterfowl Festival is coming up and they are working on sponsorships and upgrading their website.

**Adjournment:** With business concluded, Mr. Silverstein moved to close the meeting, was seconded by Mr. Bautz and the motion was carried unanimously.