



## 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 February 1, 2018

**Members Present:** Chairman Tim Jones, Ron Engle, Ted Bautz, Scott Beatty, Jean Weisman, Peter Dunbar, Jacqueline Wilson, Mike Henry, Cassandra Vanhooser, Walter Chase, Andrea Lev, Jennifer Williams, Margaret Enloe, Craig Warner, and Andy Hollis

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

**Attendees:** Scott Warner, Laura Heikes, Tracy Ward, Debbie Bowden, Susie Hayward, Paul Spies, Reza Jafari, John Wingrove (Andy Harris representative)

**Call to Order:** Tim Jones called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:03 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the December 7, 2017 meeting were presented. Mr. Bautz moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Ms. Lev seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote.

**Guest Speaker Series, Talbot County Free Library:** Dana Newman, Library Director  
Ms. Newman gave a presentation on the 2017 Annual Report of the Library. She highlighted the library's mission is to inspire the community to discover ideas and information to enrich and renew their lives. Some of the ways they fulfill that mission today include; teaching digital skills and tools to children and adults, helping residents learn how to use their electronic devices, provide access to online classes, provide support to job seekers through resume support and job search assistance, to name a few.

**Strategic Plan Update Presentation:** Sam Shoge

Mr. Shoge distributed the latest edition of the 2018 Strategic Plan to members and attendees. Many of the members complimented the team on their hard work and the quality of the content and design. Mr. Bautz suggested captions be added to the photos. Ms. Enloe inquired as to the time associated with the plan and Mr. Shoge replied the plan covers 5 years. Upon receiving final comments from EDC members, the strategic plan will be presented to the County Council in March for adoption.

**Director's Report:** Cassandra Vanhooser

Ms. Vanhooser distributed the Talbot County Visitors, Tourism Industry Sales, and the Tourism Impact Report for 2016. Tourism revenues are expected to be down for 2017 and 2018 due to the



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closing of Harbourtowne Resort for renovations and Harrisons on Tilghman Island transitioning to a new owner.

- Update on Chesapeake College Hospitality Program
  - Dept. of Economic Development will help connect students from Talbot County Public Schools to the program
- Open Meeting Act has changed (revised June 2017)
  - Training for Compliance will be upcoming
- Next Step 190 Project advocated for agritourism and short-term rentals
- Rural Maryland Day – February 8
- Frederick Douglas Park ground breaking – February 14
- Tourism Day – February 16

#### **Business Appreciation Breakfast Awards Nominations:** Ryan Snow

Mr. Snow reported that he and Mr. Shoge participated in MEDA's Annual Economic Development Day in Annapolis on January 24. The event brings together elected officials with economic development professionals from across the state. February 9<sup>th</sup> the Department of Economic Development will be hosting a PACE round table with local bankers at 9:00 a.m. at the Talbot County Community Center. The annual Business Appreciation Breakfast will be held Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Milestone. A press release will be issued in the newspaper to solicit nominations for the community impact award. Mr. Snow put forth the option of using independent judges if any members felt there was a conflict. The breakfast committee currently consists of Jackie Wilson, Scott Beatty, Craig Warner and Al Silverstein. Anyone interested in being on the committee should contact Mr. Snow.

**Committee Reports:** No report

**County Manager Report:** No report

#### **County Council Report:** Jennifer Williams, President

Ms. Williams reported on recent issues before the council that include; approval of legislation to put the Bozman/Neavitt sewer line in place, approval of several new leases at the Talbot County Business Center, and adopting PACE legislation. The council is also reviewing the proposed dredging for the Wylder Hotel in Tilghman and has released the 5-year hold on Easton Point, giving the Town of Easton control on zoning. Also under review are various options for the future of the Health Department building and the question of the tax revenue cap referendum for the next election.

**Department of Commerce Report:** No report



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**Member Updates:** No report

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Next Meeting will be Thursday March 1 at 8:00 at 100 W. Dover Street (TCFL)

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