

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES**

December 1, 2010

**PRESENT:** Joyce Bowlsbey, John Dillman, Norman Gaither, Robert Gell (Charlestown), Paula Gilley, Harland Graef, Commissioner Robert Hodge (Ex-Officio), Dr. Ken Lewis, Laura Mayse (Chamber), Mike Ratchford, Dr. Carl Roberts, Rupert Rossetti, Gary Stewart, Linda Tipton.  
Staff: Roy Clough, Debbie Graham, Erika Quesenbery, Joanne Richart-Young, Sandy Turner.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Kerry Abrams (Port Deposit), Mayor John Bunnell (Cecilton), Mayor Sandi Didra (Rising Sun), Mayor Jim Eberhardt (Perryville), Raymond Hamm, Mayor Frank Hill (Chesapeake City), Mayor Robert McKnight (North East), Grove Miller, Jeanne Minner (Town of Elkton rep.), Dr. Stephen Pannill, Donna Tapley.

**GUESTS:** Tom Kappra (Cecil County Public Schools [CCPS]), D'ette Devine (CCPS), Tammy Edwards (DBED), Bruce England (SWN), Scott Flanigan (Cecil County Dept. of Public Works), Kathy Kunda (CCPS), Cheryl Mattix (Cecil Whig), Linda McLeod (Columbia Bank), Alan Sexton (SWN), Perry Willis (CCPS).

### **Call to Order & Welcome**

Chairman Ratchford called the meeting to order at 7:58 a.m. Chairman Ratchford advised of the following:

- 1) A trip to Walter Reed Army Hospital is being planned by the Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor (CSSC) for December 8<sup>th</sup> to dispense gift cards. Anyone interested in participating is asked to let the CSSC know by noon today.
- 2) A sign-up sheet for the Economic Development Strategic Plan is being distributed and all EDC members are requested to designate a sub-committee to serve on. Mr. Dillman stated that the U.S. Department of Commerce is offering a grant to study Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that OED could possibly look into. Deputy Director Clough will look into this.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The October 6, 2010 minutes were approved as e-mailed.

### **Update on Economic Development Activities**

Roy Clough reported on the following:

- 1) OED has had a number of inquiries/prospects in the last three months. The state has made some loan/grant funds available to these manufacturing prospects, two of which are in the medical field, and two are light manufacturing. Cecil County is competing with a couple of sites in Delaware and a couple of sites in other Maryland counties,

and one site in PA. One of the companies has entered into a contract on the Rib Roof building.

- 2) OED met with another company last week about fast tracking a new 180,000 sf building, which will cost \$8.6 million and employ an additional 60 people.
- 3) Unemployment has started to drop in Cecil County.
- 4) The trip to Walter Reed Hospital is to deliver donated \$10-\$20 gift cards. OED will participate in that endeavor.

Sandy Turner advised that a second kiosk is up at the Chesapeake House on I-95. The October number of sessions on those two machines has far exceeded expectations.

### **Cecil County Public Schools Overview**

Dr. D'Ette Devine gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Cecil County Public Schools, a copy in the OED file for reference. She described the mission, core values, goals, safety issues, costs, budget, and the state's mandatory reforms. Her comments are summarized as follows:

- 1) The public schools' goals are:
  - a) all students will meet or exceed high academic standards;
  - b) all students will learn in safe, secure, and inviting environments;
  - c) all students will benefit from effective and efficient support and services provided by a learning organization.
- 2) There is good news concerning safety issues. There are:
  - a) fewer suspensions and less severe incidents
  - b) improved preparedness measures
- 3) Funding:
  - a) 38% of funding for the schools comes from County government
  - b) 8% from Federal government and others
  - c) 54% from State government
- 4) Cecil County ranks 19th in the state for the cost to educate a child from K-12. It costs over \$100,000 to educate each child for 13 years of schooling.
  - a) \$.03 of every budget dollar is spent on administrative costs
  - b) \$.05 is spent on transportation
  - c) \$.10 is spent on buildings and grounds
  - d) \$.12 on instruction support
  - e) the balance on direct instruction
- 5) State mandates:
  - a) 1989 – 2002 the State mandated Comprehensive assessments and accountability
  - b) 2002 – 2009 it mandated "No Child Left Behind"
  - c) 2011 – 2014, its reform will be "Race To The Top"

Dr. Roberts advised that the state mandates these reforms but the schools don't have the money to do it. Headlines that claim the state of Maryland received money for education don't say which Counties got the money. It is mostly given to Baltimore City and Prince Georges County, not Cecil.

Dr. Devine advised that the EDC can help the public schools by continuing to support economic growth and continuing partnering with the Board of Education. Helping the County grow provides more revenue, which would provide more resources to the children in the County.

## **TMDL & WIP Overview**

Rupert Rossetti gave a presentation on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the Water Implementation Plan (WIP), a copy in the OED file for reference. His comments are summarized as follows:

- 1) 52 of the 53 Chesapeake Bay segments in Maryland do not meet water quality standards.
- 2) The Federal Government's Clean Water Act requires TMDL if water quality standards are not met.
- 3) A detailed plan (WIP) is required on how the TMDL will be reduced.
- 4) There will be Federal consequences if results are not obtained.
- 5) Controls and practices have to be implemented by 2017.

Dr. Roberts feels this topic should be discussed throughout the year. Commissioner Hodge and Director Flanigan agreed.

## **Strategic Plan Review Process**

Chairman Ratchford advised that he will confer with Director Thompson on the sub-committee sign-ups.

There were no further comments.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Graham  
Administrative Assistant