

Economic Development Commission

The County Commissioners of Kent County

400 High Street, 3rd Floor

Chestertown, MD 21620

August 1, 2018

Commission Members Present: Bob Jacob, Cindy Genter, Jim Luff, Kate Gray, Aaron Bramble, Rob Thompson, and Tracey Williams

Commission Members Absent:

Also, in Attendance: Commissioner William Short; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; Glenn Wilson, President, Chesapeake Bank & Trust; and Amy Moredock, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning

At 3:01 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2018, meeting. On motion by Mr. Bramble and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the July 11, 2018, meeting.

Mr. Wilson stated he is a member of the Save the Hospital group and a member of the Shore Regional Health Board. Mr. Wilson shared the perspective he wants to share come from being in those roles and are his own. Mr. Wilson referenced the Economic and Health Delivery Impacts of Chestertown Hospital study conducted in 2016 by Sage Policy group. The report cited 468 direct jobs. Mr. Wilson conveyed the need for greater collaboration between the community and the administration in Easton. The need is a greater financial commitment to rural healthcare from the State and the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore needs to support legislation. It was recommended that the Commission remain engaged with the hospital to ensure that 12-15 in-patient beds are maintained. Jamie Williams will share a copy of the study with the Commission and audience members.

Mr. Wilson shared the United Way's Comprehensive Needs Assessment and handed out a presentation. Mr. Wilson highlighted the top four needs that surfaced, that are not getting attention; affordable transportation, generational poverty, low-income seniors, and a comprehensive resource one-stop-shop for community members' needs. The United Way has applied for a grant for transportation study with recommendations. Mr. Wilson shared his thought, that some type of subsidized Uber transportation may be the most viable solution. Mr. Short shared that communication of the services that are currently offered is necessary. The United Way is organizing a Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World program at Baywood Village to address generational poverty. Home Ports has been added as a United Way agency and is adding low-income seniors to their programs. Efforts are being explored to add Kent County agencies to the Maryland 211 call center.

Ms. Moredock shared the August Planning Commission meeting will be held on August 2, 2018, and the Board of Appeals meeting will be held on August 20, 2018. Ms. Moredock shared that Creafill Fibers' final site plan for expansion will be reviewed for approval with surety's completion. A special exception and site plan are being reviewed for a poultry operation in Lynch for the farm to be subdivided. Ms. Moredock shared information about the zoning text

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amendment application submitted by Cliff Road Properties, Great Oak Manor. A public hearing has been published and announced for the planning commission to receive comments about the zoning text amendment. Ms. Moredock shared that the County's Agriculture Preservation Program has been re-certified for three years. The County critical area line will be remapped which impacts zoning; communication with the Critical Area Commission will take place on August 29, 2018. Land use maps will change, and residents are receiving communication regarding the alteration of the critical area line.

Mr. Luff shared that Cliff Road Properties, Great Oak Manor has requested the Economic Development Commission support their application for a zoning text amendment, Country Inn expansion. Ms. Williams expressed the zoning text amendment should be considered for the industry, not specific to a project. The proposed amendment allows some flexibility for Country Inns wanting to grow or locate a business in Kent County. The proposed amendment does not negate any project from the required standards for a special exception, and those specific to a Country Inn. The Commission agreed that the zoning text amendment would align with the goals of the Commission. Ms. Genter made a motion to support the zoning text amendment for Country Inns, Mr. Jacob seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to support the zoning text amendment.

Mr. Luff discussed the Board of Education's site plan review. Mr. Luff stated that support of education is one of the tenants of the Commission's strategic plan. Ms. Genter made a motion to write a letter of support for the Board of Education's proposed bus parking lot, Mr. Thompson seconded, Mr. Jacob opposed, Ms. Gray abstained, and Tracey Williams recused, the motion passed by majority.

Jamie Williams shared updates to the Economic Development web pages, that include a current list of certified public accountants and lists are being developed for banks, real estate agents, and attorneys. These lists are part of the increased business to business awareness in Kent County. Ms. Williams introduced Emily McCoy, Administrative Assistant to the Commission. Ms. McCoy is in her third week and has been attending meetings where representation was needed for Economic Development. Ms. Williams shared the Business Directory continues to be updated and can be used to promote businesses. Ms. Williams shared that social media continues to be used to share job opportunities and economic development related information. Ms. Williams shared the recent article that Al Hammond wrote for the County about workforce development that will be shared when placing ads.

Mr. Furhman shared the Vision to Learn program that supplied 100 pairs of free glasses to students in Kent County Public Schools this year. Mr. Furhman would like to follow those students to determine if test scores improve as a result of having the glasses they need. Mr. Furhman recommended that eastern shore counties should join forces and demand all counties get their fair share of casino money for education.

Richard Story announced that Betterton Day would be held August 5, 2018.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 pm The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday September 5, 2018, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams

Director