

Economic Development Advisory Board

The County Commissioners of Kent County

400 High Street

Chestertown, MD 21620

July 1, 2015

Board Members Present: Robert Jacob, Cindy Genter, Kate Gray, and Jim Luff

Board Members Absent: Bob Ampula, Dan MacLeod, and Billie Dodge

Also in Attendance: Commissioner William Short, Doris Mason, Executive Director, Liz Stackowitz, Intern, Upper Shore Regional Council and Hannah Kinne, Intern, Commissioners' Office

At 3:02 p.m. the meeting convened.

Mr. Mark Buckel, Career Technology Education (CTE) Programs Coordinator, Kent County High School (KCHS) and Aaron Bramble, candidate for Board membership were invited guests.

Mr. Luff called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2015, meeting. On motion by Ms. Genter and seconded by Mr. Jacobs, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the June 3, 2015, meeting.

Mr. Buckel shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board that covered the CTE programs offered at KCHS. The programs offered include, Academy of Health Professionalism (Pharmacy Technology certification will be available), Ag-Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE), Auto-NATEF, Construction-NCCER, Engineering-Project Lead the Way-Pre-Engineering (PLTW), Fire and Rescue, FM Broadcasting, Food & Beverage Management (Culinary), and Teacher Academy of Maryland. The CTE programs prepare students to attend/enter four year college/university, two year community college, trade schools, or the work force, take certifications and licensure exams, earn college credits, experience hands-on training, learn professionalism, and practice communication skills. Eight programs are offered at KCHS, with the Fire and Rescue program offered in Centreville. All programs follow the curriculum of the Maryland State Department of Education, with the exception of FM Broadcasting. Students are required to complete a portfolio and participate in industry interviews. Mr. Buckel explained what the students learn and earn when they successfully complete each CTE pathway. Over half of the CTE program funding comes from Carl D. Perkins Funds.

Mr. Jacob asked about students visiting businesses that apply to what they are learning. Mr. Buckel shared that this is something he would like to expand. Currently, site visits rest with the instructors and they struggle with the constraints of time and money. Ms. Williams asked about internships and who the contact would be for internships. Mr. Buckel or the instructor could assist with internships for local businesses. Mr. Jacob shared that each year he hires an intern it is not formal, it happens by word of mouth. Ms. Genter attempted to link some of the needs of the major employers and mentioned the soft skills required to be a successful employee, i.e. being on time, showing up every day, etc. Ms. Williams pointed out that the public private

partnership fits perfectly with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is currently being developed. Ms. Mason affirmed that the Federal Government, Economic Development Agency is very interested in Career Technology Centers. Mr. Luff suggested bringing professionals into the schools to share information with the students.

Mr. Boone gave an update on WaveVision's departure and shared that the intention was to have a question and answer session during the Commissioners' meeting on June 16, 2015. The purpose was to dispel rumors and share the facts with the citizens. Instead the audience took over and the only vendor, Altius/BridgeMAXX, with a completed Tower Lease Agreement that met all the requirements was put on the spot to answer questions. The Altius Tower Lease Agreement was approved by the Commissioners and signed on June 16, 2015. Altius is actively building in the County to offer wireless internet service to citizens.

Ms. Williams shared that she will remain in the Commissioners' Office at least through the month of July. The FaceBook page is up and running and we have received 100 likes, which was the first incremental goal. Major projects currently in progress are the TIGER Grant for the Railroad Rehabilitation, the Enterprise Zone, and the Youth Enrichment Program with Kent County Public Schools. Other activities were listed in the monthly report provided to the Board and any specific questions were welcomed.

Mr. Luff asked Ms. Mason for an update on the CEDS process. Ms. Mason explained the process and shared that packets have been sent to stakeholders to compile information for the planning and writing of the CEDS. The date of September 24, 2015 has been set aside for a CEDS planning session.

Mr. Luff shared that Billie Dodge has decided to resign from the Board due to her unexpected work schedule. Aaron Bramble had previously provided an interest form. Mr. Luff asked Mr. Bramble why he wanted to serve on the Board. Mr. Bramble shared that he is from Kent County, originally from Rock Hall, he has a Bachelor's degree from Washington College in Economics, is interested in helping the County economy keep pace with the modern world, aware of the heritage and wants to keep the area as rural as possible, environmentally concerned, wants to make development sustainable, and interested in technology. On motion by Ms. Genter and seconded by Mr. Jacob, the Board unanimously agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Bramble. Ms. Williams will prepare for request for appointment to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Pickrum had previously shared the desire to review Chapter 21 and get EDAB more involved in the County. Commissioner Short shared his view of the chain of command: Commissioners, the Administrator, the Coordinator, and the Board. Mr. Luff and Ms. Gray will share information about boards and commissions, and how advisory affects the Board. There was also a short discussion about the current terms for members. Mr. Jacob shared conversations he has had with Ms. Williams about subcommittees to get information out to the community. Mr. Luff shared a previous experience where the Board was very active and wanted to be active and was stymied by the Commissioners wanting to approve everything. Mr. Luff shared his desire to increase the board size from seven to nine. Mr. Jacob shared his opposition

to increasing the board size due to time constraints and allowing adequate time for current members to participate in discussions fully. Ms. Genther agreed that seven members were adequate with three Commissioners, and the right seven should be fully committed. Commissioner Short and Ms. Gray made suggestions for improvements for the agenda and future meetings. Ms. Genther and Ms. Gray both felt that other people could be pulled in for subcommittees when necessary.

A motion was made by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Genther and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. The Board agreed to meet again on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams
Coordinator