

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE FUND COMMISSION

Meeting Summary for June 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Whitehill at 9:02 a.m. The meeting was held virtually and a recording of the meeting is available. Other Commission members present were: Thomas Glen, Patrick Perry, and Todd Mohn, County Administrator. Bill Walmsley, Vice Chairman, was absent. A quorum was present. The staff present at the meeting was Heather Tinelli, Director, Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator, and Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager,

Action on Agenda: On a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Gen, the meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Action on Previous Meeting Summary: On a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Glen, the meeting summary for May 18, 2020 was unanimously approved by the members present.

Department Update:

Ms. Tinelli updated the Commission on the Queen Anne's County Small Business Assistance and Relief Grant program. To date, thirty-three (33) businesses have been awarded funding. Out of the \$2.5 million allocated, approximately \$342,000 has been awarded to date. There is a one (1) week turn around in getting the checks to the businesses. The second component of the program is workforce training which is intended to pair un- or under-employed people with living wage careers. This program is working in partnership with the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board and is expected to get started by the end of June.

The Department continued to partner with other local agencies and resource entities, such as the Chamber of Commerce, to help disseminate information to businesses that are reopening under COVID 19 restrictions. We have been meeting regularly with the Emergency Operations Center to help get the information out to the business community. Ms. Tinelli asked the Commission to help spread the word to the businesses to take the Queen Anne's County Back to Business Pledge. Mr. Whitehill stated that the Town of Centreville modified its regulations to accommodate outside dining and asked there were any changes needed by the county and if accommodations were made to assist the businesses. Ms. Tinelli stated that the Department of Planning and Zoning has been a very good partner in helping the restaurants with outdoor seating.

Ms. Tinelli also stated that the department is working on next year's work program for Tourism and Economic Development.

Old Business:

A. Status of Pending Disbursements: The first disbursement to Ten Eyck Brewery for the Canning Equipment of \$24,500 was made. The balance of \$25,500 is available at the time of the issuance of the

Certificate of Occupancy. Nicki Sener, the owner of Ten Eyck Brewery, is planning on opening on July 4, 2020. Ms. Fabi will notify the Commission once the date is set.

B. Status of Billing: Invoices were sent to MidAtlantic Microbials, Wood Ingenuity, and Authentik Systems at the beginning of June and payment is not due until the end of the month. Ms. Fabi stated she spoke to the Finance Department this morning and no payments have been received to date. Mr. Whitehill inquired about Authentik Systems and if a request for payments had been received. Ms. Fabi responded that Mr. Cira had stated he was sending a payment but, to date, no payment nor further correspondence from him has been received.

C. Update on Recipients and Employment Numbers: Ms. Fabi stated that the second quarter 2020 employment reports are due July 15, 2020. She will compile a report and provide it to the Commission in advance of its August meeting. Based on information, it appears that companies in the hospitality industry that received EDIF funding have had the greatest impact to employment with some losing half or more employees. Mr. Whitehill asked that any potential relief that would be offered by the Commission should follow what other state and federal programs are doing. Ms. Fabi stated she would follow this and provide information.

New Business:

- A. Lab Leasing Co. d/b/a Water Testing Lab.** The commission reviewed the draft agreement and asked that staff obtain the county attorney's opinion regarding a remedy clause.
- B. Corsica Technologies:** Ms. Tinelli and Ms. Fabi gave the Commission an update on the status of the final disbursement. At last month's meeting, the Commission voted to extend the deadline for full disbursement to June 8. Staff contacted Sean Meenan, representative for Corsica Technologies, who provided the employment reports but no other documentation. As per Mr. Meenan, the company will not be taking the balance of the disbursement because employment at the Centreville location is not meeting the performance criteria set forth in the agreement. Ms. Tinelli requested that he provide the Commission with revised employment numbers, but to date, this information has not been received. Ms. Fabi stated that the Centreville location had thirty-nine employees based on the first quarter employment report. The parent company, Corsica OPCO, has been forfeited in Maryland and the address for it is New York, based on the information received regarding employment. The company had intended to file corporate documents in Maryland for Corsica Technologies, but, to date, has not. Ms. Tinelli stated she had hoped to have the information from the company regarding revised employment projections in hopes of renegotiating the agreement. The Commission directed staff to seek the advice of the county on how to proceed.

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Mohn, the commission unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Prepared by Jean E. Fabi, Economic Development Manager.