

## **Business Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2022**

### **I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Whitehill via Zoom at 9:01 a.m. The following board members were present and represented a quorum:

Mike Whitehill, Chairman  
Bill Walmsley  
Patrick Perry

Staff Present:  
Heather Tinelli, Director  
Rebecca Lepter, Economic Development Coordinator

Public Present:  
Linda Friday, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce

### **II. Approval of Minutes:**

On a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded Mr. Whitehill, the December meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

**Department Update:** Heather Tinelli provided the Commission with a department update:

- i. **Foreign Trade Zone** – Staff recently met with the new representative for our region on Foreign Trade Zone tax credits and incentives.
- ii. **Department of Commerce** – Staff recently met with Nancy LaJoice to discuss upcoming legislation, current projects in QAC and potential financing options.
- iii. **Education Series** – QACETD and QAC Chamber will be working together to create a series of business education workshops. Topics will include Google My Business, Access to Capital, Workforce Development, and Planning & Zoning.
- iv. **EDC** – Three new EDC Board members, representing retail, healthcare, and finance sectors recently attended Board orientation and will begin attending meetings this week.
- v. **Commercial Property Tax Credit** – The Dock House Restaurant application for a commercial property tax credit was recently approved by the County Commissioners.

III. **Old Business:**

- A. **Authentik Solutions** – Mr. Cira emailed Heather to say that a payment had been set. Ms. Tinelli has a call in to Finance to confirm.
- B. **Blackwater Distilling** –Blackwater Distilling currently holds two loans with Queen Anne's County – a Revolving Loan for which \$70,000 is owed, and an EDIF loan. Estimations on the EDIF loan are being worked through, as representatives from Blackwater came up with a different amount owed than what QACETD has on file. Staff have been auditing the account and found that the UCC expired but that personal guarantors are still responsible.

IV. **New Business**

- a. **BBQ Bueno** – Mr. Walmsley suggested that follow up be done with reps from BBQ Bueno. Ms. Tinelli shared that they have been meeting their employment numbers. A meeting should be set-up with the owner and SCORE.
- b. **First Call** – First Call is a public health care agency that is currently running mobile COVID Testing & Treatment centers around the state. They have been looking to set-up a testing site in Queen Anne's County. Staff have been assisting them with finding locations and funding.
- c. **Refill Goodness** – Refill Goodness has submitted an EDIFT application, but staff feel that more work needs to be done to complete it and that the application should be reviewed at a future date.
- d. **Future Applications** – There has been lot of recent interest in EDIF funding. Organizations like Sweet Bay Magnolia School, Chesapeake Chef Service, Chesapeake Whalertowne and others have inquired about the funding parameters and obligations.

- V. **Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Walmsley and seconded by Mr. Perry, the regular Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.