

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE FUND COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 18, 2019

The March 18, 2019 meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Whitehill at 9:00 a.m. in the County Commissioner Chambers, 107 N. Liberty Street, Centreville, MD. In addition to Chairman Whitehill, the following members were present: Todd Mohn, County Administrator, Bill Walmsley, and Jim Coulter. Staff present was Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager, and Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant. Members not present: Eric Hoffman

On a motion made by Mr. Coulter, and seconded by Mr. Mohn, the meeting agenda and the February minutes were approved by the Commission.

Department Update: Jean Fabi gave an Economic and Tourism Department update to the members present. At the last Economic Development Commission meeting on February 27th, the EDIF program was reviewed by the EDC. They are in agreement that the EDIF needs continued funding. The Queen Anne's County Public School District has adopted a youth apprenticeship curriculum through DLLR. DLLR is currently enrolling local companies interested in having an apprentice. There will be a Beach to Bridge traffic plan meeting on March 21, 2019 at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center. Both Groco and S.E.W. Friel have signed up for the Foreign Trade Zone. Jean Fabi also gave the members present a finance update. The County Commissioners approved a transfer of \$200K from the BRIDGE to the EDIF.

Old Business:

A. Recipient Update: Employment numbers are due in April; Jean Fabi is working on gathering those. Cult Classic Brewing Company and Smoke Rattle and Roll will start their quarterly meetings in April. The Kent Narrows Marine Boatel is pending disbursement. Both Wood Ingenuity and MidAtlantic Microbials are making payments on their loans. Powertrain Products and Compass Regional Hospice have both met their requirements, and AMS Group is on track to meet their requirements. Hydrasearch recently hosted the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce Networking Event-Success in 60. Open Seas Coffee has hired one employee; they are scheduled to meet with Score in April. Blackwater Distilling has opened their new tavern located in Stevensville. The Sudlersville Laundromat is scheduled to open next month. They have partnered with Smoke Rattle and Roll for their commissary kitchen.

B. EDIF Budget Discussion: On a motion made by Mr. Walmsley, and seconded by Mr. Coulter, the Commission unanimously approved that the EDIF submit a request to the County Commissioners for dedicated budget funding of \$300K per fiscal year. The Commission would like Jean Fabi to send them information on the revenue created for the county from tax dollars collected from the businesses participating in the EDIF program.

New Business:

A. MidAtlantic Microbials Request: On a motion made by Mr. Walmsley, and seconded by Mr. Coulter, the Commission unanimously voted that the MidAtlantic Microbials grant of \$70K awarded in 2015 be converted to a loan so they can begin making payments.

B. Review of EDIF Request: A new EDIF request was submitted by Communications Electronics, Inc. They are requesting \$25K to fund the expansion of their sales and engineering office and related equipment which will allow them to hire additional technical resources to engineer, install, and maintain larger opportunities. Communications Electronics Inc. is located at the Chesapeake Bay Business Park in Stevensville, and currently has 10 employees. With unanimous agreement from the members present, the board will receive a presentation from Communications Electronics Inc. at their next regular meeting on April 15, 2019.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Mr. Walmsley, and seconded by Mr. Coulter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.