

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE FUND COMMISSION

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Monday, July 15, 2019

The 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, Patrick Perry and Tom Glen. Staff present was Jean Fabi, Economic Development Manager.

On a motion made by Mr. Walmsley, and seconded by Mr. Mohn, the meeting agenda and the May meeting summary were approved by the Commission.

**Department Update:** Jean Fabi gave an Economic and Tourism Department update to the members present. Members were sent the June Department report in advance of the meeting. Ms. Fabi stated that Secretary Kelly Schulz of the Maryland Department of Commerce toured TechOps in Stevensville on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> as part of a larger initiative to tour each of the counties in the state. The tour was followed by a business roundtable lunch at Harris Crab House. Topics discussed included the expanding businesses in the county and challenges to economic development such as workforce, lack of broadband and public infrastructure, and traffic. GROCO is the first company to become active within the Foreign Trade Zone. GROCO is an EDIF recipient.

## **Old Business:**

**A: Status of Pending Awards, Recipients and Applications:** Ms. Fabi stated that quarterly and annual employment reports are due today and that a full report on employment will be provided at the August meeting. PRS Guitars is reporting 357 employees. Powertrain is at 22 and Kent Narrows Boatel is at 5, which includes full-time equivalents. Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company held a grand opening on June 1 for its laundromat which was funded in part by the EDIF. Communications Electronics Systems completed its expansion, funded by the EDIF, and will hold a grand opening on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Fabi recently met with AMS Group and toured the upgrades to the building funded by the EDIF. She is planning a tour for the EDIF commission to coincide with the grand opening date as both businesses are in the Chesapeake Bay Business Park. SRR, LLC is pending disbursement of its final draw pursuant to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy for its Centreville location. Corsica Technologies has submitted part of the information needed for its first disbursement. Invoices have been sent to Wood Ingenuity, MidAtlantic Microbials and Authentik Solutions.

**B. EDIF Budget:** Ms. Fabi provided the board with the fund balance report. The balance brought forward is \$196,000 +/- . This amount excludes already committed funds. Ms. Fabi said that there are funding requests from the EDIF pending application that include a service company, a new manufacturer, a hospitality/manufacturing start-up, and a matching training grant. Ms. Fabi is exploring programs that can be used to leverage EDIF funds.

## **New Business:**

**A: Business Tours:** Mr. Perry, Mr. Glenn and Mr. Mohn toured Powertrain Products and Cult Classic Brewery in June. The members found the tours very informative. Ms. Fabi will be planning future visits to EDIF recipients. The next visit being the grand opening of Communications Electronics on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**B: QAC Agricultural Industry Tour:** Ms. Fabi updated the board on the upcoming tour. Mr. Whitehill discussed agricultural companies that were funded by the EDIF and that this would be a good outreach to the community to help identify potential projects. The group discussed Chesapeake Fields Farmers Cooperative and Ms. Fabi stated she is working with Cooperative Extension on the itinerary and she believes this company is included. The Tour is August 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Perry and Mr. Glen are attending to date.

**C. Project Overview:** Ms. Fabi stated that a complete application submittal is pending for a project that is breaking ground August 4. This application should be submitted for review by the EDIF at the August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Walmsley the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.