

Bath County EDA  
PO Box 13  
Warm Springs, VA 24484

July 10, 2019  
Meeting Report

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting at Bath County library Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6:00 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Tommy Black, John Fischer, Pat Haynes, Laura Shaver and Joe Wood.

Staff: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton

Guests: Mike Bollinger, The Recorder, Lynn Ellen Black, Marty Plecker and Bruce McWilliams

**Agenda:** Fischer proposed, seconded by Black, that the agenda previously distributed by email be amended to include EDA's consideration of Speyside Bourbon Stave Mill (SBSM) attorney's recent letter copied to EDA regarding SBSM noise controversy. The amended agenda was approved by all.

**Public Comment:** Marty Plecker criticized the way the SPSM project was initially reviewed by County government vis a vis county residents' interests and also mentioned that there is a way SPSM could help the public on SPSM's noise. Bruce McWilliams expressed concern with EDA's attention to the Speyside noise controversy and that more respect is due to SBSM by EDA by nature of SBSM's being a business operating in Bath. Lynn Ellen Black, Bath Planning Commissioner, commented that, while SBSM appears to be in compliance with county ordinances, Bath government took extraordinary steps to make allowances for SPSM at the time SPSM was considering locating its operations in Bath, and that the county did not at that time do its due diligence.

Chair Wood and Vice Chair Black, EDA's appointee to represent EDA to Speyside, then addressed the public's comments with statements that EDA will work with the County and SBSM to attempt a meeting for further discussion on a resolution.

Previously distributed **Minutes** of the May meeting were approved by all.

**Legal Counsel Report:** Attorney Singleton had nothing to report but solicited questions from members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Fischer moved, seconded by Black, that Treasurer's Haynes report be accepted – approved by all.

**Capital Improvement Committee:** Wood reported that IP building fluorescent lighting fixtures had been replaced by EDA with LED lighting fixtures under contract to H&M and that LED lights were paid by Bluegrass Wood.

**Old Business:**

Regarding the public's noise complaint associated with certain SBSM operations, Chair Wood observed that in his opinion this was no longer an EDA matter but rather a matter between the County and

SBSM, and that EDA should let the respective attorneys of those two entities deal with the issue. General discussion on this observation ensued. Black said that he thought the April 11 meeting among county representatives and SPSM had gone well and was surprised that SPSM (1) had declined to meet further on the issue, instead choosing to limit communications via an attorney's letter and (2) had not allowed a noise engineer consultant provided and paid by EDA to take sound readings at SPSM operations to review the noise situation for possible remedial solutions.

Counsel Singleton, when asked about appropriate communication channels, said that SBSM's attorney had called him to complain about Vice-Chair Black's contacting Speyside Ohio about noise solutions, but that anyone has a legal right to communicate without attorney. However, in Singleton's opinion, Vice Chair Black should not have represented himself as Vice Chair to Speyside without Board approval. Secretary Fischer then reported to all that Black had in fact been specifically appointed by the Board in a previous meeting to represent the EDA Board to SBSM on the noise matter.

Several members emphasized that EDA just wants to help toward a solution, rather than appearing to act in some unknown regulatory role. Fischer noted that EDA may have a moral imperative for involvement in this in view of its 2016 role in maintaining secrecy surrounding the new plant operations – in order to encourage a decision by SBSM to bring new jobs and investment into the Bath. Shaver moved, seconded by Black, that EDA authorize attorneys to represent EDA for the purpose of securing an additional meeting among County government, EDA and Speyside to discuss plant noise abatement alternatives – approved by all.

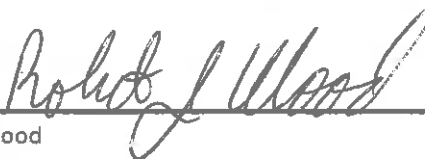
**New Business:**

Job Fair Committee postponed its meeting to implement a 2019 Job Fair in Bath County.

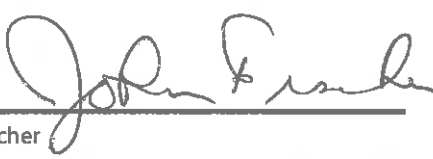
The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Fischer, Secretary

X 

Joe Wood  
Chair

X 

John Fischer  
Secretary