

**Bath County EDA
PO Box 13
Warm Springs, VA 24484**

**January 15, 2020
Meeting Report**

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting at Bath County library Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 6:00 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: John Fischer, Ramona Garcia, Pat Haynes, Tom Richardson, Laura Shaver and Joe Wood.

Staff: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton and County Administrator Ashton Harrison

Guests: Bill Jones, Bath Preservation Society (PB) and Mike Bollinger (The Recorder)

Agenda - Previously distributed **Agenda** was approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Mr. Jones expressed PB's continued interest in acquiring and preserving EDA's Siloam Baptist Church property in the event of its becoming available.

Minutes of the previous meeting as previously distributed and corrected were motioned by Haynes for approval, seconded by Richardson and approved by all.

Legal Counsel Report

Attorney Singleton reported that President Scott Reece of "Send the Light" ministry had not responded to EDA's November follow-up letter regarding their LOI. Chair Wood appointed Attorney Singleton to reach out to Reece, including telephone communication, in order to obtain an update before the January meeting. Chair Wood asked Harrison to inform PB that the church property may again become available in the near future.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Haynes presented an aged bill and cash position. Fischer motioned, seconded by Garcia to approve the bill and report which was then approved by all.

New Business:

Members unanimously approved postponing the next meeting to January 15, after the January Board of Supervisor meeting, and requested Harrison to so advertise publicly.

Regarding Black's apparent intent to resign, Wood asked Harrison to check whether a formal resignation had been submitted to Board of Supervisors (BoS) in order to accommodate a February BoS replacement appointment. Harrison commented that he plans to recommend to the recently elected BoS continuation of the current EDA membership.

Richardson proposed submitting an application he completed of Request for Interest to VA Dept of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for EDA's potentially receiving \$10,000 technical services under DHCD's Small Scale Manufacturing Pilot program. He reported that Bath's diverse small scale endeavors such as breweries, vineyards, food etc are all eligible for this program. Fischer moved, seconded by Haynes that the application completed by Richardson be signed by Harrison for the County and submitted. Approved unanimously.

Harrison reported on the Industrial Hemp for the Shenandoah Valley Project being led by faculty at James Madison University to provide economic analysis for the emerging industrial hemp market. He noted the benefit of Bath's collaboration with certain region-wide economic efforts. Fischer moved, seconded by Richardson that EDA assume the County's commitment (\$2,100) to participate in the analysis, but with requiring further EDA review of any future commitment for the project. Approved unanimously.

After discussion of the economic importance of Bath Community Hospital (BCH) as an attractive asset for the real estate and tourist markets, Fischer proposed to invite a BCH non-operating Board member to talk with EDA in February or March about non-operational capital changes and plans for BCH in the intermediate future. Chair Wood appointed Haynes to invite the appropriate BCH board member to a regular or closed EDA meeting.

Old Business:

Harrison reported on site development requirements in order to raise EDA's Industrial Park (IP) site to a Level 3 classification. He recommended EDA's joining with Central Shenandoah Valley's (CSV) efforts toward consultant studies on the subject. Wood motioned Harrison to obtain quotes in conjunction with CSV for assessing upgrading IP to a Class III facility.

Harrison reported on cumulative-to-date 5% lodging tax receipts. Chair Wood appointed Harrison to invite Omni corporate management to discuss an update of the related project with EDA in view of recent personnel changes to BoS and EDA lodging tax committee composition.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Fischer, Secretary

X 

Joe Wood
Chair

X 

John Fischer
Secretary