

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

February 4, 2020
Meeting

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting at Bath County library Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members in attendance: Tommy Black, Ramona Garcia, Pat Haynes, Tom Richardson, Laura Shaver and Joe Wood.
Staff: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton and County Administrator Ashton Harrison

Guests: Marty Plecker, Bill Jones, Bath Preservation Society (PB) & Mike Bollinger (The Recorder)

Agenda – The previously distributed **original agenda** was modified to allow Marty Plecker to speak to the members in the Public Comment section.

Public Comment: Mr. Plecker read (and presented) a letter that his wife Susan had presented to the Board of Supervisors the previous evening, and asked the EDA to write Speyside to take action on abating the noise coming from their operations there at the Industrial Park. In addition, he invited EDA members to come to his property to witness the noise level and gave a copy of the letter (to the Board of Supervisors) to Mr Bollinger to be printed in *The Recorder* Newspaper.

Closed Session: Since Mr. Singleton had received more information from Reverend Scott Reese since our last meeting, Mr Black made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the Shalom Baptist Church purchase. Dr. Richardson seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held in closed session, most of which will be reported on in a section (below). Upon emerging from closed session, the members were polled to verify that **ONLY** the issue at hand (Shalom Baptist Church sale) was discussed and nothing else.

Output From Closed Session: Mr Singleton was asked to write a letter (or otherwise communicate) to Reverend Reese the results of our discussion as follows: Because the cost of asbestos abatement seems to be so high (per the quotes they have received), the EDA will reimburse the money they paid for the purchase of the church as long as the money is indeed applied to the cost of asbestos abatement (receipts to be presented to the EDA). They have 30 days from the date of the letter (or communicate) to present this receipt for reimbursement.

Re-Election of Officers & Monthly Meeting Time:

By unanimous agreement, it was agreed to keep the same officers for the 2020 calendar year that we had for 2019, as follows:

Chair:	Joe Wood
Vice Chair	Tommy Black
Treasurer	Pat Haynes
Secretary	John Fischer

And that the monthly meeting date and time would be the same: the Wednesday AFTER the Tuesday that the Board of Supervisors meet, at the Bath County Library Conference room at 6pm. Motion made by Ms. Laura Shaver, seconded by Ms. Garcia.

Unanimously carried.

Legal Counsel Report

Initial comments, at the beginning of the meeting, prompted the ‘closed session’, so no additional comments here.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Haynes presented four (4) bills for payment. Mr Black motioned to pay these bills, seconded by Ms. Garcia to approve the 4 bills and the report which was then approved by all. It was suggested that we arrange with the Bath County Hospital to give us a presentation in the May or June time frame on what their upcoming plans are. (this probably should have been under ‘new business’, but it came up here for some reason.

Minutes of the previous meeting as previously distributed (and corrected at the beginning of the meeting) were approved unanimously.

Old Business/New Business:

Mr. Harrison reported that Speyside’s new Copper plant in Washington County has delayed its opening until April or May, delaying our proposed trip to that facility. He also reported that the process for achieving category 3 classification for the Millboro Industrial Park (from its current Category 2 level) is progressing. Details should be available soon.

Some discussion was held on the recent “Go Virginia” Region 8 Council and Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) collaboration on grant opportunities, particularly the “Economic Gardening” Grant proposal and the related Industrial hemp project. There are some meetings being held in the upcoming months, but no particular motions were made and passed, merely a general agreement to participate wherever/whenever it made sense. (In December 2019, we had voted to use EDA money to fund our level of participation).

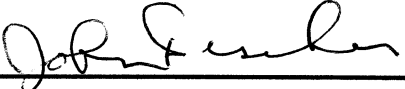
Just as a general comment, Dr. Richardson talked about the Allegheny County Parks & Recreation Department's desire to extend the Jackson River Scenic Trail further north in to Bath County, ideally all the way to a juncture (and trail head) on Coles Mountain Road in or near the old Lower Cascades Golf Course.

Mr Harrison showed a newly created video (on his cell phone) of the Millboro Industrial Park

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. (motion by Mr Black, 2nded by Mr. Haynes)

Respectfully Submitted,


Tom Richardson, Temporarily-anointed Secretary

X 

John Fischer
Secretary

