

Bath County EDA

March 10th, 2021

PO Box 13

Meeting minutes from the March 10th, 2021 EDA meeting (to be approved at the April 14th Meeting) Warm Springs, VA 24484

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting at the Bath County Historical Society Building, Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 6:02 PM. Since there was no flag present, we dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members attending: D. Hahn, T. Richardson, T. Black, J. Wood, S. Puller, R. Garcia, and P. Haynes (no one absent)

Staff: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton & County Administrator Ashton Harrison

Guests: Mike Bollinger (The Recorder), as well as all five (5) County Board of Supervisors in a 'joint' meeting, and Theresa Tanner, US Forest Service District Ranger

Agenda – The previously distributed original agenda was approved

Public Comment/Guests: none

Select Meeting time for calendar year 2021. At the previous EDA meeting (January, 2021) it was decided that we would have our regularly scheduled meetings at 6pm, the 2nd Wednesday of each month, but the location was not certain because of the availability of the courthouse could not be guaranteed. At this meeting, it was decided that we would meet at this same location (Bath County Historical Society conference room; the "Trimble Room"). Motion by Garcia, 2nded by Hahn, motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the previous meeting as previously distributed were approved (motion by Hahn, 2nded by Black—approved unanimously).

Legal Counsel Report: nothing new to report

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Haynes submitted a written report showing a checkbook balance of \$240,420.49 as of February 28, 2020, with only one bill in February, the annual fee from Victor Security for security monitoring (\$252.48/year): (motion to approve report was made by Garcia, 2nded by Black--approved unanimously).

Old Business:

Discussion of Proposed EDA Grant Program for NEW Business Activity and Expansion:

History: For the past few months, our EDA has been discussing the possibility of creating a Grant Program modeled after the one in Highland County focused on new or expanding businesses. In stark contrast the CARES Act Grants that were issued in the Spring & Summer of 2020 (designed to help existing businesses survive), THIS grant would focus on business expansion and award money for companies to either start NEW businesses or to expand existing ones.

Also noted in previous meetings, Secretary Tom Richardson made the case for allocating as much as \$50K in each year of a two year program to help ‘kick start’ businesses as Bath County, the country, & the world emerges from the COVID 19 epidemic—the \$50K strawman amount being roughly 20% of the money the EDA has at its disposal. The group has discussed this idea at length, but worried about creating such a short duration (two year) grant program without Board of Supervisor (BoS) support for follow-on years. At the January EDA meeting (the February meeting was canceled due to weather), it was ultimately agreed to table this idea until a joint EDA/BoS planning session could be held, where we would seek such (ongoing) support for more than just two (2) years of funding. No particular motion was made or passed at the January meeting, and the was item tabled until the March meeting, where the Board of Supervisors would be invited. They were indeed invited, and all were present for this March 10th joint EDA/BoS meeting.

The proposed Grant fund at this current (March 10th) meeting: The discussion was taken up again in this joint EDA/BoS meeting in hopes of securing BoS agreement to support this grant fund in subsequent years, since our EDA funding was finite and would dangerously erode our bank account balance without future BoS support in *out years*. But instead of the proposed \$50K grant fund amount, a more modest \$30K amount was agreed to and this enjoyed unanimous support from both the EDA and BoS board members. The BoS agreeing to make this part of their upcoming fiscal year budget starting July 1, 2021. It was thus decided that the details (maximum \$\$\$ award levels, time frame, deliverables, etc) would be worked out prior to or at the April 14th EDA meeting, at which time the grant program would be launched. Motion by Puller, 2nded by Haynes, carried unanimously.

New Business:

USFS Special Use Permits & the Upcoming Public Meeting on Lake Moomaw

Theresa Tanner, the new US Forest Service Ranger (USFS) for our district, spoke about the process of submitting *Special Use Permit* applications for activities on USFS properties, encouraging the process for marathons, horseback riding, mile swims, concerts, etc. and reminded us of the April 13th public meeting on Lake Moomaw with the county Board of Supervisors (BoS). She would like to come back sometime to speak about the economic impact of having USFS facilities like Hidden Valley, Lake Moomaw, etc. No particular motions were made or passed.

Potential Site Tour of Millboro School for the May EDA meeting (May 12th).

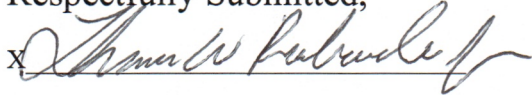
This was just a 'heads up' that we may hold our May meeting at the old Millboro school; no particular motion was made or passed. More discussion to come at the April meeting.

“Letter of Support” for a “GoVa “ grant application

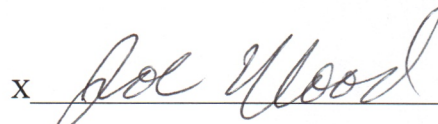
In recent meetings, the EDA board discussed a proposed grant application that would support a startup company here in Bath County for a project that would attempt to make feed stock 'filament' for 3D printers and develop a 3D printing curriculum for the Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC) in Clifton Forge. This grant application (and the subsequent leadership, should it be funded) will come from DSLCC, in partnership with a Highland County company (IMADE3D) and a Bath County startup company. A motion was made by Puller to write and sign such letter of support, and 2nded by Garcia; motion was passed unanimously with Richardson abstaining due to his involvement with this project.

Next Meeting: scheduled for April 14th, 2021 at 6:00pm in the same location (Trimble conference room of the Historical Society). A motion to adjourn was made and approved unanimously (1st: Hahn, 2nded by Haynes) at 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,

x 

Tom Richardson, Secretary

x 

Joe Wood, Chairman