

**Bath County EDA  
PO Box 13**

**July 14th, 2021 Meeting**

**Meeting minutes from the July 14th, 2021 EDA meeting (to be approved at the August 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting), Bath County Historical Society Building, Warm Springs, VA**

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting inside the Bath County Historical Society Building Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:01 PM.

Members attending: D. Hahn, J. Wood, P. Haynes, T. Richardson, S. Puller, & R. Garcia (all but one were present)                      Members absent: Bruce McWilliams

Staff attending: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton and County Administrator A. Harrison

**Guests:** Mike Bollinger (“The Recorder”); Stephanie & Dennis Forbes from MPCA, Patrick Haynes (son of Pat Haynes) for a scheduled closed session briefing

**Pledge of Allegiance:** we recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*

**Agenda** – The agenda for the evening was approved (motion by D. Hahn, seconded by T. Richardson, approved unanimously)

**Public Comment:** We had a continuation of the discussion started last month with the MPCA (Millboro Preservation & Cultural Association) on what to do with the old Millboro Elementary School, with various ideas tossed around. It is hoped that we can strike a balance between what the MPCA wants to see done AND any possible commercial interests (such as apartments, a community center, office space, etc). There was a long discussion about what possible GRANTS might be applicable (from the Central Shenandoah Planning District (CSPD) for example) and Ashton volunteered to have a developer come here to see the buildings and proposed ideas for what is in the realm of the possible, and the EDA repeated their offer to help out in this process. There were no particular motions proposed or passed, but discussion will continue at future meetings—and for a more complete record of exact quotes (back and forth), the July 22<sup>nd</sup> (2021) issue of “The Recorder” has more details on page 3 of that issue.

**Approval of Old Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes from the June, 2021 EDA meeting (motion made by D. Hahn, 2nded by R. Garcia, passed unanimously).

**Legal Council:** Nothing new to report

**Treasurer’s Report:** one new invoice was submitted (as part of the treasurer’s report) from Vector Security Service for \$175 for security services. A motion to accept the treasurer’s report and pay this bills was made by T. Richardson, 2nded by R. Garcia, passed unanimously). Current bank balance (before subtracting this new bill) is \$238,046.00.

**Old Business:** As requested at the last EDA meeting, Ashton Harrison gave a brief report on the county’s tourism program; food and lodging tax receipts are WAY up over 2020, but it was agreed that we should use month-to-month receipts for 2019 as a better comparison, since year 2020 was such a strange year. This led into some of the topics covered in “New Business”.

**CLOSED SESSION:** For the first of two scheduled closed sessions, R. Garcia motioned that the group go into closed session to discuss potential real estate activity (2nded by T.

Richardson; passed unanimously). The presentation was done by Pat & Patrick Haynes. After the presentation, R. Garcia and Tom Richardson motioned that the group come OUT of closed session, and this also passed unanimously. The subsequent 'poll' was passed unanimously, certifying that ONLY this real estate activity was discussion during the closed session. The 2<sup>nd</sup> planned CLOSED SESSION for this evening was jettisoned as not being necessary.

**New Business:** Just like last month, there was also a desire for the Chair & Vice Chair from both the Board of Supervisors AND the EDA to have a special meeting to discuss further thoughts on various economic development topics. Also, it was reported that the Planning & Zoning office wishes to embark on discussions about LONG term rental properties versus SHORT term rental properties, and how that might impact the price and availability of long term rentals. We also reviewed the VTC/'tourism' packet and had an overall discussion of grant money that might be available and reviewed the data packet from the Virginia Tourism Council.

Shawn Puller asked a question: "What does 'good' look like in regard to tourism?? How do we know when we get there, and do we need a Tourism Council to guide these efforts?? Do we need a "Community Development Director" to focus on housing, community needs, etc). For Allegheny County (and Covington) THEIR EDA has a consultant helps guide these discussions-- can the EDA or the Board of Supervisors fund a consultant to help form the Tourism Development Council?? What do we have to loose??" No particular motions were made or passed.

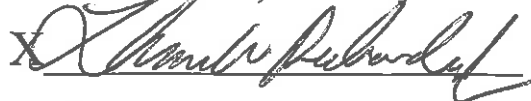
As a side discussion (and only because the issue came up recently) the group sought clarification on HOW MANY EDA members can be a part of OTHER community meetings that might arise. The recent case-in-point was at a "Lodging/Tourism" group meeting being hosted by the Bath County Chamber of Commerce. When the group looked around the room at the attendees, it was discovered that there were FOUR (4) EDA members present (Hahn, Haynes, Puller, Richardson). But while four (4) EDA members (out of the 7 total membership) do indeed constitute a QUORUM, there is NO VIOLATION because the group was not there to discuss "EDA-Specific" items—so no one needed to leave\*. Not only was this confirmed by our resident attorney (Chris Singleton); but also by Mike Bollinger, who is well versed in this topic. In a small community such as ours, this is likely to arise often.

**Next Meeting:** August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the regular Historical Society Building location (6:00pm)

A motion to adjourn was made and approved unanimously (1<sup>st</sup>: D. Hahn, 2<sup>nd</sup>ed by T. Richardson; unanimous) a little after 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Richardson, Secretary

X 

Tom Richardson,  
Secretary

Joe Wood, Chairman

X 

Joe Wood  
Chairman

\*Because it was indeed unclear at the time, Hahn & Puller did leave this "Lodging Group" meeting out of an abundance of caution. But we do not need to do so in the future (even if ALL SEVEN EDA

MEMBERS SHOW UP FOR SUCH A MEETING) if the discussions do NOT contain EDA-specific action items or agendas.

