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County Administrator
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AGENDA
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING ROOM
July 19, 2021
8:30 a.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the July 19, 2021 Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting will be held by electronic means pursuant to the Continuity of Government Ordinance adopted by the Board on April 5, 2021, due to the threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

While some EDA members may participate remotely, staff will be present presenting as normal in the Board of Supervisors meeting room at 150 S. Main Street, Lexington 24450.

In addition to citizens attending the meeting in person, citizens have several options to view or participate in the Zoom Meeting Webinar as described below:

Join the Rockbridge County Economic Development Authority Zoom webinar.

When: Monday, July 19, 2021, 08:30 a.m. Eastern Time

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86846310414?pwd=OFIaV2E0MUx5bk91c0RxRUftWVlZQT09>

Or Telephone: Dial: US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833
Webinar ID: 868 4631 0414
Passcode: 599030

If you have never joined a zoom webinar, you can find instructions to join at the following link:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115004954946-Joining-and-participating-in-a-webinar-attende->

1. Call to Order
2. Citizen Comments

- a. *Citizens Comments can be made by:*
 - b. *Email eda-citizencomment@rockbridgecountyva.gov*
 - c. *Comments sent by U.S. Mail must be received by the day of the said meeting to be read aloud during that meeting.*
 - d. *Submit a comment in writing and place it in the dropbox located at the county Administration Building's front entrance at 150 S. Main Street Lexington, VA 24450. Include your name and Magisterial District.*
 - e. *Join the Zoom webinar by phone or computer using the instructions at the top of page one (1) of this document, then using the information below:*
 - i. *you can click on the Q & A box and submit your question there, and it will be read during public comment (option for computer with no microphone)*
 - ii. *if you have a microphone, you can click on the "Raise Hand" button. The mediator will unmute you and announce that you can address your comment.*
 - iii. *if you call in, the mediator will announce the phone number as it is unmuted, and the caller can then state if he or she wishes to comment.*
-
3. Approval of the Minutes (April 19, 2021 and July 8, 2021)
 4. Financial Report (May – June)
 5. Activities Report (May – June)
 6. Consideration of Broadband Memorandum of Understanding
 7. Consideration of Legal Services Committee Recommendation
 8. Discussion Regarding Economic Development and the Board of Supervisors Economic Development Retreat
 9. Board Comments
 10. Adjourn

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the Minutes

SUBMITTED BY: Brandy Flint, Secretary

DATE: July 14, 2021

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The minutes for your April 19, 2021 and the special meeting on July 8, 2021 are attached.

Recommendations:

Motion to adopt the meeting minutes as presented.

AT A MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) HELD ELECTRONICALLY AND AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES LOCATED AT 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON, VA 24450 ON APRIL 19, 2021, AT 8:30 AM.

PRESENT IN PERSON: J. LINGON JONES, JR., ROY POWELL, JANIE HARRIS, AND DAVID HAWKINS
PRESENT ONLINE: ANNE HERRING
ABSENT: DAVID FERRIS AND BOYD BROWN
EDA COUNSEL: NONE
SECRETARY: BRANDY FLINT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: DAVID MCDANIEL (present online)
MEDIA: NONE
OTHER: SPENCER SUTER (present online)

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Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

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The second agenda item was citizen comments.

Ms. Flint indicated that no citizen comments were received via email or the Zoom platform, and there were no phone call-ins.

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The third agenda item was the approval of the February 16, 2021 meeting minutes and the March 22, 2021 meeting minutes for the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

Upon a motion by Ms. Herring, seconded by Mr. Powell, the EDA voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented for February and as amended for March.

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The fourth agenda item was the financial report.

Ms. Flint reviewed the financial report as presented below:

The EDA has three open checking accounts, one certificate of deposit, and a restricted escrow account. The following information reflects the balances of those accounts since my last report in February.

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 1. | <i>Regular Checking Account Balance</i> | <i>\$ 7,431.21</i> |
| 2. | <i>COVID-19 Relief Fund Balance</i> | <i>\$ 73,411.47</i> |
| 3. | <i>COVID-19 Relief Fund Balance – Round 2</i> | <i>\$ 26.71</i> |
| 4. | <i>Certificate of Deposit – Cornerstone Bank as of April 5, 2021</i> | <i>\$ 51,942.59</i> |
| 5. | <i>Restricted Escrow Account</i> | <i>\$123,920.35</i> |

Upon a motion by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mr. Powell, the EDA voted unanimously to approve the financial report as presented.

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The fifth agenda item was the activities report.

Ms. Flint reviewed the following activities report:

The following activities occurred from February 7, 2021, to April 12, 2021

- a. Daily activities for the Community Development Office*
- b. Continuous Participation with VEDA*
 - i. Impacted ED Sessions monthly*
 - ii. VEDA P2P Session*
 - iii. Awarded the VEDA scholarship*
 - iv. I applied for scholarships with IEDC for economic development courses.*
 - v. Forwarded legislative concerns and activities to EDA members*
- c. Attended the monthly SVP Lead Generation Meeting.*
- d. Submitted COVID-19 grant documents to the IRS.*
- e. Live Health Rockbridge monthly meetings.*
- f. Several meetings with local partners to discuss the GoVA grant(s)*
- g. Attended the monthly department head meetings*
- h. Attended the monthly Chamber Economic Development meetings*
- i. Attended the monthly CSVRC meetings*
- j. Attended several meetings throughout the month regarding economic development items with existing and expanding businesses*
- k. Attended Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board Business Solution Team meetings*
- l. Attended multiple meetings regarding USDA grant funding opportunities*
- m. Attended Walker Program meeting for local governments with Mr. Slaydon. Advised entrepreneurs in the program about the process of opening a business in Rockbridge County, and Mr. Slaydon provided information on planning and zoning.*
- n. Attended the Go Virginia Regional Council meeting*
- o. Attended REDI meetings*
- p. The EDA had a joint meeting in March with the Board. Leslie Schaller presented her findings to date on the REDI grant.*
- q. Attended the Go Virginia Ad Hoc meeting*
- r. Attended the VEDA Virtual Spring Conference*
- s. Attended the Buena Vista City Council Meeting*
- t. Participated in Community Clean-Up Week*
- u. Working with Dabney and RCHS, and other local partners to enhance the CTE program*
- v. Attended the monthly tourism meeting*

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The sixth agenda item was Business Appreciation Month.

Ms. Flint advised that May is Business Appreciation Month in Virginia. She presented the following resolution to the EDA and noted that the Board of Supervisors would be adopting a similar resolution. Upon a motion by Ms. Herring, seconded by Mr. Powell, the EDA unanimously adopted the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY AS BUSINESS APPRECIATION
MONTH IN ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2019, Governor Northam declared the month of May as Business Appreciation Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, Rockbridge County businesses are vital to the County's economic prosperity and growth; and,

WHEREAS, Rockbridge County businesses provide jobs, products, and services to our residents, residents in our surrounding communities, and consumers far and wide; and,

WHEREAS, though Rockbridge County businesses felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many were able to adapt, survive and even thrive through these tremulous times; and,

WHEREAS, Rockbridge County's top employment industries include retail trade, manufacturing, accommodations, food service, and construction, all of which were impacted by the pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, and also impacted by the pandemic, agriculture-related businesses, including production, transportation and distribution are critical to our local economy and provide products to sustain our local communities, and those far beyond our borders; and,

WHEREAS, Rockbridge County is currently home to 1,560 business license holders and 29 manufacturing operations; and,

WHEREAS, as many Rockbridge County's business license holders are small businesses operated by dedicated entrepreneurs; and,

WHEREAS, Rockbridge County extends its gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and perseverance of all of our local businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, The Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County, do hereby recognize May 2021 as Business Appreciation Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and here in Rockbridge County, we call this observance to the attention of all our citizens and ask that you thank your local business owners and support their operations.

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The seventh agenda item was an attorney discussion.

Ms. Flint advised that the RFQ was published, and seven firms responded.

Mr. Hawkins stated that he felt we needed to take another look at the RFQ and determine the EDA's legal needs before moving forward with any of the firms that responded. He also asked that Ms. Flint discuss attorney options with Ms. Huffman. Ms. Flint asked that a legal

services committee be set to review the RFQs and recommend what to do next. She advised that Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Brown volunteered for the committee. Upon a motion by Mr. Powell, seconded by Ms. Harris, the EDA voted unanimously to set a legal services committee comprised of Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Flint to review the RFQs and recommend legal services.

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The eighth agenda item was a discussion on the impacts of COVID-19.

Ms. Flint advised that Mr. Powell asked that the funds from the first grant be returned to the county coffers since there has been more money issued in another stimulus package.

Mr. Powell noted that the American Rescue Plan includes millions of dollars for small businesses and suggested that the EDA move their money out of the grant account.

After some discussion on the stimulus activities and available grants, upon a motion by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Ms. Harris, the EDA voted unanimously to close the COVID-19 grant checking accounts and move the funds to the regular checking account.

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The ninth agenda item was Business Program Summary.

Ms. Flint reviewed the business program summary. She thanked Ms. Ramsey with Buena Vista for formulating the list and allowing her to edit it to fit Rockbridge County.

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The tenth agenda item was the 2019 and 2020 Audits.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hawkins seconded by Mr. Powell, the EDA unanimously approved the audits as presented.

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The eleventh agenda item was Board Comments.

Mr. Hawkins indicated that he plans to meet with Glen Petty at the Horse Center as soon as possible.

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With no further business to discuss, upon a motion by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mr. Powell, the EDA voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Flint,
Secretary

AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) HELD ELECTRONICALLY AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES LOCATED AT 150 SOUTH MAIN STREET, LEXINGTON, VA 24450 ON JULY 8, 2021, AT 2:00 PM.

PRESENT IN PERSON:	ROY POWELL, JANIE HARRIS, ANNE HERRING, AND DAVID HAWKINS
PRESENT ONLINE/PHONE:	BOYD BROWN
ABSENT:	J. LINGON JONES, JR.
SECRETARY:	BRANDY FLINT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:	
MEDIA:	NONE
OTHER:	SPENCER SUTER AND VICKIE HUFFMAN

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Ms. Harris called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Ms. Flint advised that Mr. Suter was present to request a discussion regarding broadband be added to the agenda.

Ms. Harris allowed the addition.

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The second agenda item was a review of the performance agreements for the incentive provided to Modine from the state and the County.

Ms. Flint advised that the agreements are performance-based, meaning the company would expend the funds or hire the employees before the funds are distributed.

Mr. Hawkins asked about checks and balances with the reporting.

Ms. Flint advised that the agreements were set up so that the County is using the same evaluation form that the state is using to make progress. The company would provide receipts for reimbursement that would be reviewed by staff.

After a brief discussion, upon a motion by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Hawkins, the EDA voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution.

Resolution to Approve a Performance Agreement Between the County of Rockbridge, Virginia, Modine Manufacturing Company, Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, and the Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County for a Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund Grant for \$194,000, and to Approve a Performance Agreement Between the County of Rockbridge, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County, and Modine Manufacturing Company, for a Local Grant Match of the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund Grant for \$1 94,000, for Economic Development Purposes

WHEREAS, the County of Rockbridge, Virginia (the "County"), and the Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County, Virginia (the "Authority"), desire to promote and encourage the economic development and vitality of the County through the recruitment of new industry and the expansion of existing business and the creation of employment opportunities for

the citizens of Rockbridge County, in order to provide for increased employment and corporate investment in the County; and,

WHEREAS, Modine Manufacturing Company (“Modine” or the “Company”) desires to support the economic development efforts of the County and the Authority, and proposes to improve its existing warehouse facility in the County to convert it to a production facility for industrial cooling equipment (the “Facility”), thereby making a significant capital investment to equip, improve, expand and operate its manufacturing facility, and to create and maintain a significant number of new jobs (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and,

WHEREAS, the County has been awarded a grant of and expects to receive \$194,000 from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund (a "COF Grant") through the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority ("VEDP") for the purpose of inducing the company to complete the Project; and,

WHEREAS, the County will match the COF Grant and provide additional assistance as set forth in the proposed Performance Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the County is willing to provide the COF Grant funds and the local Grant Match funds (the “Grant Match”) to the Authority with the expectation that the Authority will provide the funds to or for the use of the company, provided that the company promises to meet certain criteria relating to Capital Investment and New Jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the County, the Authority, the company and the VEDP propose to enter into the Commonwealth’s Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement (the “COF Performance Agreement”) dated February 24, 2021, to set forth their understanding and agreement as to the payout of the COF Grant, the use of the COF Grant proceeds, and the obligations of the Company regarding Capital Investment and New Jobs, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1; and,

WHEREAS, the County, the Authority, and the Company propose to enter into a Performance Agreement (the “Local Grant Match Performance Agreement”) dated June 28, 2021, to set forth their understanding and agreement as to the payout of the COF Grant Match, the use of the Grant Match proceeds, the obligations of the Company regarding Capital Investment and New Jobs, and the repayment by the company of all or part of the Grant Match under certain circumstances, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2; and,

WHEREAS, the equipping, improvement, expansion, and operation of the Facility will entail a capital expenditure by or on behalf of the company of at least \$7,025,000, of which approximately \$5,775,000 will be invested in machinery and tools, approximately \$150,000 will be invested in furniture, fixtures, and business personal property, and approximately \$1,100,000 will be invested in the improvement and up-fit of the building; and,

WHEREAS, the equipping, improvement, expansion, and operation of the Facility will further entail the creation and maintenance of at least 60 New Jobs at the Facility; and,

WHEREAS, the stimulation of the additional tax revenue and economic activity to be generated by the Capital Investment and New Jobs constitutes a valid public purpose for the expenditure of public funds and is the animating purpose for the COF Grant and the local COF Grant Match.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Directors of the Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County, Virginia, as follows:

1. That the terms and provisions of the Commonwealth’s Development Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement dated February 24, 2021, and attached hereto as Exhibit 1, between the County of Rockbridge, Virginia, Modine Manufacturing Company, the Economic

Development Authority of Rockbridge County, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority, are hereby authorized and approved.

2. That the terms and provisions of the Performance Agreement dated June 28, 2021, and attached hereto as Exhibit 2, between the County of Rockbridge, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County, and Modine Manufacturing Company, for the local COF Grant Match, are hereby authorized and approved.

3. That appropriation of the COF Grant Funds and the local COF Grant Match Funds shall be considered as provided in the Performance Agreements.

4. That the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman is hereby authorized to execute the Performance Agreements approved in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, in substantial conformity to the proposed agreements herewith, and to execute such other and further documents and to take such further actions as are necessary to accomplish this transaction on behalf of the Economic Development Authority of Rockbridge County.

5. That this resolution shall be effective on and from the date of its adoption.
Adopted this 8th day of July, 2021.

Recorded Vote:

AYES: Powell, Herring, Hawkins, Brown, Harris

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Jones

ABSTAIN: None

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The third agenda item was a discussion on broadband.

Suter advised the EDA that the County is working on a partnership with multiple parties to establish a memorandum of understanding regarding broadband expansion in the County. This initiative aims to allow the County and its partners to work together to provide all county citizens with access to high-speed fiber. It would enable the County to apply for additional VATI grants. He reviewed the history of broadband in the County, including the development of RANA, installing the fiber backbone and data center, and the progress that BARC Connects and RANA ISP's have made in expanding opportunities. He stated that this initiative would benefit the citizens and business owners in the County and allow additional economic development. He asked the EDA if there was a consensus to support this project. After some further discussion, the EDA gave Mr. Suter their consensus that they would like to review a memorandum of understanding regarding broadband service being installed throughout the County.

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With no further business to discuss, Ms. Harris adjourned the meeting at 2:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandy Flint,
Secretary

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, July 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Financial Report

SUBMITTED BY: Brandy Flint, Secretary

DATE: July 16, 2021

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

1.	Regular Checking Account Balance as of last report	\$ 7,431.21
	Credit Transactions:	
	04/29/2021 –Transfer from Cares Grant Account Round 1	26.71
	04/29/2021 –Transfer from EDA Grant Round 2	73,414.29
	Interest Earned 04/30/2021	1.52
	Interest Earned 05/30/2021	10.30
	Interest Earned 06/30/2021	9.96
	Debit Transactions:	
	05/18/2021 – News Gazette Ad – Legal Services	<u>93.00</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 80,800.99
2.	COVID-19 Relief Fund Balance – Round 1 – account closed on April 29, 2021	
3.	COVID-19 Relief Fund Balance – Round 2 – account closed on April 29, 2021	
4.	Certificate of Deposit – Cornerstone Bank as of July 6, 2021	\$ 51,994.99
5.	Restricted Escrow Account	\$123,920.35

Recommendations:

Motion to adopt financial report as presented

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Activities Report

SUBMITTED BY: Brandy Flint, Secretary

DATE: May 11, 2021

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The following activities occurred from April 13, 2021 TO May 6, 2021

1. Daily activities for the Community Development Office
2. The EDA met on April 19, 2021. At their meeting, they adopted the Business Appreciation Month Resolution, approved their minutes and financial reports, set a legal services committee to discuss legal services and review responses to the RFQ, moved to transfer EDA grant funds into their regular checking account, discussed local, regional, and state business support programs and services, and approved the 2019 and 2020 audits. The legal services committee held its meeting and discussed options.
3. Economic Development Activities:
 - a. Continuous Participation with VEDA
 - i. Impacted ED Sessions monthly
 - ii. VEDA P2P Session
 - iii. Forwarded legislative activities to EDA members
 - iv. Attended BRE SIG meeting
 - v. Attended Workforce SIG meeting
 - b. Announced Modine expansion and attended multiple meetings regarding it
 - c. Attended multiple Zoom meetings on entrepreneurial support services with IEDC
 - d. Attended multiple Zoom meetings regarding the American Jobs Plan and the American Rescue Plan
 - e. Attended monthly regional networking meeting with tourism
 - f. Met with Mohawk representatives on Scenic River
 - g. Attended Zoom presentation – Virginia’s Newest Budding Industry: The Legalization of Cannabis in the Commonwealth

- h. Attended multiple informational Zoom presentations on agrotourism.
- i. Attended the monthly SVP Board of Directors meeting and Lead Generation
- j. Live Health Rockbridge monthly meeting
- k. Attended the monthly department head meeting
- l. Attended the monthly CSVRC meeting
- m. Attended Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board Business Solution Team meeting
- n. Attended the Go Virginia Council meeting
- o. Attended the Chamber ED Committee Meeting
- p. Working with Dabney and RCHS, and other local partners to enhance the CTE program, including a meeting with DOL to discuss youth apprenticeships.
- q. Attended presentation on the preliminary findings regarding the GoVA hemp research grant
- r. REDI meeting
- s. Judged the Gauntlet Business Plans. Attended the following Zoom presentations: Future of Customers and Consumer Behavior, Community Responses: Rescuing Small Business
- t. Worked on BAM items, including the resolution for the Board and EDA, a thank you postcard that will go out next week, and a luncheon with CHEFS at the visitor's center

Recommendations:

At this time, there are no recommendations that need to be made concerning this agenda item.

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Legal Services Committee Recommendations

SUBMITTED BY: Brandy Flint, Secretary

DATE: July 13, 2021

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

As you requested in April the legal services committee was established. The committee was comprised of Mr. Brown and Mr. Hawkins. We met with Ms. Huffman, County Attorney, and reviewed the RFQs that were received in April. The Committee determined that the RFQ was not an adequate representation of what is required of the EDA Attorney. The discussion consisted of two options - rejecting all RFQs and readvertising, and rejecting all RFQs and asking Ms. Huffman to represent the EDA on items that are not in conflict with her duties to Board of Supervisors. The Committee's recommendation is to reject all of the RFQs that were received and ask Ms. Huffman to formally represent the EDA on items that are not in conflict with her duties to the Board. The Committee would like to formulate an RFQ at a later date that will ask for an attorney on an as needed basis if Ms. Huffman has a conflict. Due to the fact that a majority of the legal items handled by the EDA include the Board, Board input, and/or similar resolutions, the committee felt that Ms. Huffman could provide the necessary legal services to the EDA.

After some discussion the Committee's recommendation is to reject all the RFQs that were received, appointment Ms. Huffman, and work on a RFQ for an attorney on an as needed basis.

Recommendations:

Accept the recommendation of the legal services committee to reject the RFQs, work with the legal services committee to reformat an RFQ more suitable to the EDA's current needs, and appoint Ms. Huffman as the EDA attorney.

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY HELD AT THE ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: Discussion Regarding Economic Development and the Board of
Supervisors Economic Development Retreat

SUBMITTED BY: Brandy Flint, Secretary

DATE: July 16, 2021

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The Board of Supervisors held their economic development retreat on July 14, 2021, at the Virginia Horse Center. At that retreat, they discussed the development of an economic development office, the current economic conditions in the county, future planning for economic growth, and the hiring of an economic development director. They have requested that the EDA appoint one member to represent the EDA in the hiring process. Mr. Suter will be present to provide further details on the retreat.

I am working with the REDI committee to establish regional economic development goals and priorities. We have had many discussions regarding workforce and housing over the last year. The committee has agreed that a regional housing study should be a priority. The committee members were asked to speak with representatives from each locality to determine if there is support for this goal and the possibility of funding it. I contacted the CSPDC, who provided me with the average cost of the housing study completed by Bath County in 2018. The average price was \$44,000. More details will be flushed out for this initiative as each committee member facilitates discussions with their boards, commission, and councils. In the meantime, I would like to know the EDA's position on the subject to provide that to the Board's finance committee.

Recommendations:

Appoint a representative of the EDA to sit on the hiring committee for the Director of Economic Development.

Consideration of support and funding for a regional housing study.