

BROOKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AGENDA

Events & Quarterly Meeting

May 15, 2018, 5:00 – 7:30 pm, Bethany College, Bethany, WV

1. **TOUR: Stone-Campbell Archives/Bethany Disciples of Christ Historical Society** 5:00 pm
Rick Lowery, President, Disciples of Christ Historical Society
2. **MEETING: Bethany College Dining Hall** 6:00 pm
3. **WELCOME: John Casinelli, President** 6:15 pm
 - Introduction: The Honorable Pat Sutherland, Mayor of Bethany
 - Special Guest Speakers: Dr. Tamara Rodenberg, President, Bethany College
Mr. John Lipinski, Vice President, Operations, Bethany College
4. **BOARD & OFFICER REPORTS:** 6:30 pm
 - A. Minutes: Joan Simonetti Beck
 - B. Finances: Larry Swanson
 - C. Officer Status: John Casinelli/George Kondik
5. **UPDATES** (includes Municipalities, Towns, Villages, Dev. Authorities, Commissions, Councils, etc.) 6:45 pm
 - Beech Bottom -
 - Bethany – P. Sutherland
 - Follansbee – J. Casinelli
 - Weirton - G. Kondik
 - Wellsburg & Wellsburg Chamber of Commerce - D. Klick
 - Wellsburg Redevelopment Project - Matz Malone
 - Brooke County Commission – T. Ennis, S. Wise, J. Andreozi
 - Business Development Corporation – P. Ford
 - BHJ Metropolitan Planning Council – M. Paprocki (review report submitted in advance of meeting)
 - WV Development Office - M. Borrer
 - Board of Education -
 - Realty Industry- E. DiPino, M. Kowalo, L. Swanson
 - Other Reports
6. **GENERAL DISCUSSION: OLD & NEW BUSINESS:** 7:00 pm
 - A. Follansbee Survey (May 7) – J. Casinelli
 - B. Brooke County Ag Day – N. Schwertfeger/R. Greathouse
 - C. Business Development Workshops – N. Schwertfeger
 - 1) One Stop Business Center - Brian Canterbury
 - 2) WVU Women’s Business Center – Carrie White
 - 3) West Liberty University Center of Entrepreneurship
 - D. Other Business - All
7. **UPCOMING QUARTERLY MEETINGS: (EDA pays for venue/dinner) – All** 7:15 pm
 - A. August 29, Brooke Hills Park, Coordinators: Joe Mullenbach/Bud Billiard
 - Tour: 4:30 pm
 - Meeting/Dinner: 5:30 pm
 - B. November ____, 3rd Annual Economic Summit
 - Date/Time/Location
 - Agenda
8. **ADJOURNMENT: J. Casinelli** 7:30 pm

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MINUTES – QUARTERLY MEETING

February 28, 2018

Brooke County Library, Wellsburg, WV

1. **ATTENDANCE:** The following people signed the attendance roster at the meeting:
John Casinelli, Bud Billiard, Lynn Davis, Alexandria Eberle, Tim Ennis, Patrick Ford, Ruby Greathouse, Matz Malone, Joseph M. Mullenbach, Mathew Meyers, Larry Palmer, Tim Pierce, Norm Schwertfeger, Warren Scott, Joan Simonetti, Rita Kosevic Sulith, Patrick Sutherland, Larry Swanson, Alex Weld, Stacey Wise
2. **MINUTES:** The minutes from the 4th quarter 2017 Economic Summit were approved as distributed. Mr. Casinelli recognized Patti Welling, who served as the Secretary of the Brooke County EDA. Her sudden passing was a shock to all. The board observed a moment of silence for Ms. Welling, a former secretary for Brooke County Schools' transportation department and member of St. John's Catholic Church, who passed in December of 2017.
3. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Schwertfeger reviewed the status of finance. The balance is \$20,618.04; WVEDC dues of \$100.00 were approved. Bank signature cards will be amended to include Larry Swanson and John Casinelli.
4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The following officers were elected by the majority of those present at the meeting: President – John Casinelli; Vice President – George Kondik (in absentia); Secretary – Joan Simonetti; Treasurer – Larry Swanson. Mr. Schwertfeger shall coordinate an orientation and transfer of information with the new officers prior to the May meeting.
5. **BCEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. **Pitch Committee:** Norm Schwertfeger reported that some federal and state grants may be available to historic districts. Ruby Greathouse has furnished a list to Mr. Schwertfeger of the list of historic sites. Also, a list of vacant property in Brooke County is being developed.
 - B. **Downtown Development Committee** –A meeting, chaired by David Klick, was held on February 23 between members of the Wellsburg Chamber, Brooke County Economic Development Authority, and the Wellsburg Urban Redevelopment Authority to discuss ways to bring new businesses and attract visitors to the city's downtown business district.
 - C. **Wellsburg URA** - The next meeting of the Wellsburg URA is March 13. The Wellsburg Chamber meets on the first Wednesday of each month. This committee will continue to provide updates to the EDA regarding its progress.
6. **BCEDA QUARTERLY MEETINGS:**
 - A. **May 15, Bethany, WV** – Cindy Hoffman and Pat Sutherland, Coordinators
 - 1) Tour
 - 2) Meeting
 - B. **August 29, Brooke Hills Park** – Bud Billiard and Joe Mullenbach, Coordinators
 - 1) Tour – 4:30 pm
 - 2) Meeting – 5:30 pm
 - C. **November – 3rd Annual Economic Summit** – sponsor, date, and location is TBD

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7. UPDATES – Municipalities, Towns, Villages, and Development Authorities

- A. **Beech Bottom** – No report
- B. **Bethany** – Pat Sutherland advised that Bethany is looking forward to hosting the next quarterly meeting.
- C. **Follansbee** – Pat Ford/John Casinelli
- D. **Weirton** – No report
- E. **Wellsburg Urban Redevelopment** – Matz Malone provided a brief update on the activities of the redevelopment group.
- F. **Brooke County Commission** (<http://www.brookewv.org/ccomm.html>) – Tim Ennis provided an update on county activities. The State Public Service Commission has approved a new power plant to support sewer, power, and water utilities; this shall create 400 construction jobs and 30 permanent positions. 80 structures have been demolished because of the county dilapidated building initiatives. The Commissioners have been with area elected legislative officials and provided feedback on the legislative agenda. The county levy is coming up for renewal and has been added to the November ballot; this will save the county \$70K due to the elimination of a special election. Many additional cost savings opportunities have been identified and are being explored to save tax dollars regarding progressive vs regressive taxation, resource leveraging, and the identification of properties for business/industrial prospecting.
- G. **Business Development Corp.** (<https://www.bhbdc.com/>): Pat Ford reported over \$50 Million investment in Brooke County. Ford said jobs in West Virginia's two northernmost counties tend to fall into five industry clusters — chemicals, energy, value-added metals, transportation logistics and health care. There exists a great opportunity to match growing business/industrial development clusters with available properties that meet those needs. The Chambers can assist us in matching available properties to support the hospitality and commercial clusters. Ford reported that he has "letters of intent" for the old Follansbee Steel location. The Follansbee Middle School is posted as property for prospective corporate offices. Brooke Glass is slated for remediation activity to prepare it for future development. Beech Bottom continues to add businesses; three have been added and we are currently entertaining another two.
- H. **BHJ Regional Metropolitan Planning Council** (<http://www.bhjmpc.org/>) – Mike Paprocki: No report
- I. **WV Development Office** (<http://westvirginia.gov/contact-us.html>) - Max Borrer: No report
- J. **Realty Industry**: Larry Swanson reported that 1st Choice Realty is expanding. Current focus is residential. He is working with several members of the real estate association and the community to develop a list of queued up sites for commercial as well as residential development.

8. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:

- A. **Satisfaction Survey, City of Follansbee** – J. Casinelli reported on the special project; a report is due by the May city council meeting.
- B. **Business Needs/Opportunities Survey** – N. Schwertfeger shared copies of the survey which is being distributed to business owners in the Wellsburg area.
- C. **Special Presentation**: Matt Meyers, a representative of Commonwealth Alternative Medicinal Options, shared plans to cultivate hemp on 20 acres near route 67 at the east end of Bethany. His goal is to involve local farmers in the endeavor. Hemp is mistaken for marijuana because it is from the same plant species. Hemp is a federally regulated plant that has medicinal, food (seed and flour), construction, and manufacturing uses. Ruby Greathouse, curator of the Brooke County Museum, stated "hemp was once used to make rope, sails, and paper." Mr. Meyers added that "George Washington and Thomas Jefferson are said to have grown hemp for rope."

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Mr. Meyers indicated that a small number of workers will plant hemp during April and harvest in August. Those interested in pursuing this opportunity may call the Brooke County WVU Extension Services to obtain more information.

9. **NEXT MEETING:** May 15, Bethany College is hosting!! Thank you, Cindy Hoffman, for your efforts.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Ruby Greathouse moved and Larry Palmer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully compiled by:

Joan E. Simonetti

Secretary