



## MINUTES

### JOINT MEETING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY & BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bedford County Administration Building  
Ground Floor Training Room  
122 E. Main Street  
Bedford, VA 24523

October 12, 2021  
5:30 p.m.

#### **Economic Development Authority:**

##### **Present:**

Rhonnie Smith, Vice-Chairman - Dist. 1; Vicki Gardner - Dist. 2; Wyatt Walton - Dist. 3; Matthew Braud - Dist. 4; Kristy Milton - Dist. 5; James Robertson - Dist. 6; Jim Messier, Chairman - Dist. 7

#### **Board of Supervisors:**

##### **Present:**

Edgar Tuck - Dist. 2; Charla Bansley - Dist. 3; John Sharp - Dist. 4; Tommy Scott, Chairman - Dist. 5; Tammy Parker, Vice-Chairman - Dist. 7

**Absent:** Mickey Johnson - Dist. 1; Bob Davis - Dist. 6

**Staff Present:** Pam Bailey - EDA Secretary; Robert Hiss - County Administrator; Amanda Kaufman - Deputy County Administrator; Brandon Butler - Senior Assistant County Attorney

**Guests:** Tim Saunders, Virginia Career Works

**Transcriber:** Julia Peters

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Board of Supervisors Chairman Tommy Scott welcomed everyone to the joint meeting and introduced EDA Chairman Jim Messier. Chairman Messier noted this was the first meeting with the new EDA Director Pam Bailey, who had served previously as Interim Director. Ms. Bailey gave a presentation about the mission of the EDA, its past year's accomplishments, and what can be done in the future year. Also covered in her presentation was EDA strategic planning and its goals and focus areas. A brief

overview was given as well regarding the joint meeting between the Town of Bedford EDA and the County EDA, which was held in July 2021. Ms. Bailey also reviewed the results from the EDA's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Analyses of the County's business parks and the Smith Mountain Lake area. She explained the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP), noting that the biggest request regionally from business prospects is for pad-ready sites of 27 to 100 acres.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of pursuing a 100 acre pad-ready site in Bedford County. Points explored included:

- how to develop such a site and what happens if the County decides to change its focus
- trying to obtain regional partnerships to fund such a venture since it would benefit the entire region
- workforce availability
- the Montvale tank site

Tim Saunders from Virginia Career Works gave the next presentation. He explained that his organization is a partner in the workforce system that provides employment services. He noted there are multiple things in play causing the hiring challenges that businesses face currently. He also reviewed Bedford County unemployment, increased job openings, and the impact of retirements and a shrinking labor pool.

The joint meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

The EDA members remained in the Training Room for a short regular monthly meeting.