

**Campbell County
Economic Development Commission/CEDS Committee**

April 19, 2012

The regular meeting of the Campbell County Economic Development Commission was held on Thursday, April 19, 2012 in the Campbell County Board Level Multi-use Room, Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia.

Members Present:

William Calohan III, Vice – Chairman	Joanne Jordan
William Anderson	Jo Kelley
Deronda Brightwell	Kevin Keys
Gary Cantwell	Ruth Pillow
Richard Carroll	Linda Rodriguez
G. Michael Damron	Scott Tweedy
D. Vance Driskill	Valarie Younger

Also Present:

Mike Davidson, Director of Economic Development
Scott Hechler, Director of Public Safety
R. David Laurrell, Campbell County Administrator
Russell Thurston, Brookneal Town Manager
Brandon S. Turner, Program Manager, Economic Development
Edward Wildrick, Consultant

Member Absent:

Lester Wooldridge Chairman	Robert Maslow
Hugh Bragg	Dale Moore
Sharon Brown	William Overacre
Bonnie Crews	Doris Robinson
Patty Eller	Todd Scott
Terri Gibson	Willie Thornhill
Lynda Gray	Mark Younkin
Barbara LaPrade	

// Vice – Chairman Calohan called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

// The March 15, 2012 minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Vice-Chairman Calohan noted the March 15, 2012 Economic Development Commission meeting minutes were approved by concession.

Matters from the County Administrator

// Mr. Laurrell delivered a presentation on the budget situation within Campbell County. He stated the County is running a shortfall of \$7.5 million in FY 2013. There are a number of fiscal challenges facing the County, including a rise in the County's Ability to Pay rate, a number of approved and unfunded State and Federal mandates, increased public need for services, and an increase in contributions to the Virginia Retirement System, which alone will cost approximately \$3.5

million. While costs have increased, funding levels from the State and Federal government have decreased over the past several years.

Mr. Laurrell informed the Committee that education comprises the largest component of the County's budget, at approximately 65%. Many residents do not realize it costs approximately \$34,385 in County contributions to educate a child from K-12, and real estate/personal property taxes take approximately 38 years to return this investment.

Campbell County residents need to have a discussion of what the County's needs are along with what citizens wish to pay. Mr. Laurrell stated the budget issue is not unique to Campbell County; most localities in Virginia are dealing with serious budget concerns. It is Mr. Laurrell's position that there is no single solution to address this problem; a combination of budget cuts and tax increases will minimize the overall burden to citizens. Mr. Laurrell, along with the Board of Supervisors, are proposing a seven-cent increase in the real estate tax, a \$0.60 increase in the personal property tax rate, and implementing a transient occupancy tax of approximately 2%. Additionally, the County will hold a referendum this fall on a 4% meals tax, with revenue dedicated to education.

Mr. Laurrell stated Campbell County has taken great strides to reduce costs and deliver government services more efficiently. He cited examples such as reducing costs through regional partnerships, reduction of County and school workforce, energy saving initiatives, and two school closures. Future budget cuts could come in the form of school closures, reduction of County services/programs, or continue to delay essential projects.

// General discussion followed Mr. Laurrell's presentation; questions/comments generally centered on education funding, rescue services, and unfunded mandates. The Committee was grateful for the presentation, and many agreed it shined a new light on the budget situation in the County. Mr. Laurrell stated the presentation would be available on the County's website.

Matters from the Economic Development Director

// Mr. Davidson briefly reiterated the budget issue, and informed the Committee that County representatives would be glad to give this presentation to civic groups and other local organizations.

// Mr. Davidson next discussed the CEDS draft. He asked the Committee if there were any further comments on performance measures, to which there were none. He also inquired if there were any changes/corrections/edits to be made to the draft that was emailed and mailed to members the previous week; there were several minor corrections that were brought forth. Mr. Davidson asked that all comments be relayed to the Economic Development office by Friday, April 27th to give the department time to prepare the document for submission to the Board of Supervisors in June. Many committee members were satisfied with the quality of the CEDS draft document. Mr. Davidson thanked committee members for their valuable input during the process, and stated the document could not be as strong without support from Committee members.

Matters from Commission Members

// No matters were discussed.

// With no other items presented for consideration, Vice - Chairman Calohan adjourned the meeting at 1:14 P.M. This was the final meeting of the joint EDC-CEDS Committee; the next EDC meeting will be held on Thursday, July 19th, 2012 at 12:00 noon in the Campbell County Board Level Multi-use Room, Haberer Building.