

FEBRUARY 12, 2020
JOINT MEETING WITH
WASHINGTON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AND THE TOWN OF ABINGDON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
JOINT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020 – 3:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – 1 GOVERNMENT CENTER PLACE
ABINGDON, VIRGINIA**

A joint meeting of the Town of Abingdon Economic Development Authority and the Washington County Industrial Development Authority was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 3:00 P.M. in the IDA Meeting Room, 1 Government Center Place, Abingdon, Virginia.

WELCOME - Washington County Industrial Development Authority Chairman Randall Blevins called the Washington County Industrial Development Authority meeting to Order.

Mr. Berg addressed the IDA members and visitors stating that holding a joint meeting with the IDA would offer a chance for each group to set forth goals. Both organizations are similar in that they each offer incentives to attract investors to the area. These investors would need housing, they would be visiting local restaurants and require lodging, which would help local tourism.

Mr. Berg offered a look into the EDA's goals for the 2020-2021 year, telling the members that the EDA planned to create a webpage that would be linked with the Town of Abingdon's webpage and Abingdon's Tourism page. They are also invested in façade improvements, which would have an economic impact and are looking at training for the EDA members.

Mr. Blevins stated that it is a challenge to attract businesses to the area. The IDA consists of seven members that have been appointed by the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Whitney Bonham Czelusniak addressed the group with updates on the Oak Park Center for Business & Industry, Washington County, VA. The Oak Park is owned by the Washington County IDA and was built in four phases. The park was constructed to be site ready to attract industry to the area. This park still has open sites available to develop.

Mr. Blevins said the Washington County IDA is in collaboration with Smyth County as co-owners of the Highlands Business Park, located in Glade Spring, VA. This park is at capacity except for a few small lots. The best plan for the smaller lots is to sell to the private sector.

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Mr. Blevins also told the group that the Washington County IDA owns the Washington County Social Service Building in Bristol, VA. The building is now owned outright and since the building is owned through an entity such as the IDA, they are allowed to charge rent.

Chairman Blevins and Mr. Berg called for questions, comments, discussion and action for the Washington County Industrial Development Authority or the Economic Development Authority members.

Mr. Dan Smith reported that a new business is considering opening in the Old Train Station in Damascus; the service would give you a train ride to the Alvarado Winery and back.

Ms. Tonya Triplett updated the group on the Business Challenge, there are fifteen participants, and three have already secured a business location in downtown Abingdon.

Chairman Blevins suggested that the two groups get together occasionally to discuss collaborations.

Mr. Berg expressed appreciation for inviting the EDA to the joint meeting. He said that there are no barriers between the Town and the County and that both would like to see the region prosper.

Chairman Blevins called for a short recess before the continuation of the meeting of the Washington County Industrial Development Authority and for the continuation of the Abingdon, EDA to commence in another conference room located at the Administration Building, 1 Government Center Place, Abingdon, VA.



Janice Dornon, Secretary



Nathan Berg, Chairman