

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority convened at 1:00 p.m. via teleconference only at 470-869-2200/meeting ID 428-245-6027.

The following were in attendance at this meeting:

Authority Members	MMG Staff
Les Hall	Randy Croxton
Sharon Pinder	Anthony Williams
Gina Ramsey	Mark Harrison
Kenny Oreagba	Michael Howard
Ben Siegel	Robin Harris

Attorney General's Office
Barbara Kountz, Deputy Counsel

MINUTES

October 12, 2023

December 7, 2023

REPORTS

Breaking Bread, LLC

Carmen B. Young, dba B&J's Carry Out

CannabizMD, LLC

Compost Crew, Inc.

Fishnet Baltimore, LLC

Le Ravishe, LLC

Warren Builds, LLC

WeSolar Inc.

EXTENSION

Le Ravishe, LLC

NEW REQUEST

Hungry Harvest LLC

The closed session of the December 7, 2023, meeting was summarized. The Authority Board meeting was attended by Les Hall, Mara Sierocinski, Gina Ramsey, and Kenny Oreagba. The meeting was closed to comply with requirements of the Maryland Public Information Act so that there would not be disclosure of confidential, commercial, and financial information associated with the applicants. The meeting was closed to discuss the Performance of the Current MSBDFA Portfolio Companies for the period ending June 30, 2023.

MINUTES

October 12, 2023

December 7, 2023

Action Taken: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

REPORT - EXTENSIONS

Presenter: Les Hall

Comments: There were 8 extension requests submitted and approved by the Department extending the approval so the transaction would have time to settle or extend the maturity in preparation for renewal:

1. Breaking Bread, LLC
2. Carmen B. Young, dba B&J's Carry Out
3. CannabizMD, LLC
4. Compost Crew, Inc.
5. Fishnet Baltimore, LLC
6. Le Ravishe, LLC
7. Warren Builds, LLC
8. WeSolar Inc.

Discussion: There was limited discussion.

Action Taken: No action was required by the Board.

EXTENSION

Presenter: Mark Harrison

Applicant: Le Ravishe, LLC

Loan Amount: \$40,000 EPIP Line of Credit

Original Approval Date: May 12, 2022

Comments: A 60-day maturity date extension of the line of credit through March 28, 2024, was requested to allow more time to prepare a renewal request.

Discussion: There was limited discussion regarding a restructure of the line of credit to a term loan and the status and uses of the existing MSBDFA facilities.

Action Taken: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Authority unanimously approved the request as presented.

REPORT

Presenter: Anthony Williams

Applicant: Breaking Bread, LLC

Loan Amount: \$480,000 EPIP SSBCI Term Loan

Original Approval Date: December 20, 2022

Comments: People's Bank's approval has expired, and will not be extended. The request has to come back as a new transaction for the bank and MSBDFA. The building rehabilitation costs show a \$1 million increase. MMG will review the revised plan.

Discussion: There was limited discussion regarding the request.

Action Taken: No action was required by the Board. MMG was requested to provide a written status report.

The Open Meeting then closed at 1:20 p.m. upon motion made and seconded, and approved by all voting members, the meeting was closed pursuant to General Provisions Article, Section 3-305(b) (13), “to comply with a specific... statutory... requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter”, that is, the Maryland Public Information Act prohibits disclosure of trade secrets, confidential commercial and confidential financial information. Chairman Les Hall signed the Presiding Officer's Written Statement for Closing a Meeting under the Open Meetings Act, which is attached to these minutes as an exhibit.

APPROVED:

Celester A. Hall
Celester A. Hall (Mar 1, 2024 12:14 EST)

Celester A. Hall
Chairman

DATE: 01/03/2024

MARYLAND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING
UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT
(General Provisions Article § 3-305)**

1. Recorded vote to close the meeting:

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:25 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: Held by conference call at 267.930.4000/684 358 366

Motion to close meeting made by: Sharon Pinder; Seconded by Gina Ramsey

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Celester Hall, Chair, Designee Secretary of Commerce	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Ben Seigel, designee of Comptroller	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Charles Martin	[]	[]	[]	[x]
Kehinde Oreagba	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Sharon Pinder	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Gina Ramsey	[x]	[]	[]	[]
Mara Sierocinski	[]	[]	[]	[x]

2. Citation of statutory authority to close session (check all that apply): This meeting is being closed under General Provisions Article § 3-305(b), only:

____ (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;

- (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;
- (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto;
- (4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State;
- (5) To consider the investment of public funds;
- (6) To consider the marketing of public securities;
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
- (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;
- (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations;
- (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;
- (11) To prepare, administer, or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination;
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, *if* public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

3. Disclosure of the topics to be discussed, for each citation checked above:

§3-305(b)(13) topics: Discussion and evaluation of the applications received from potential borrowers for financial assistance under programs of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, which applications include the disclosure of financial information of private individuals and confidential commercial and financial information.


§3-305(b)(7) topics: Legal advice from counsel to the Authority with respect to the applications.

4. For each topic listed in #2, disclosure of the reason for discussing it in closed session rather than in open session:

§3-305(b)(13): Financial information of private individuals is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-336) and confidential commercial and financial information is protected from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act (§4-335).

§3-305(b)(7): Protection of the attorney-client privilege.

This statement is made by Celester Hall, Chair of the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority, Presiding Officer.


Celester Hall
Chair