

MacRo Report Blog

County overhauls economic development division; two executives are out

Originally published in the Frederick News Post February 2, 2012 by Pete McCarthy

Frederick County's Board of Commissioners has decided to take economic development in a new direction, announcing a change in leadership today.

Laurie Boyer is out as director of the Office of Economic Development, Ron Tobin will leave his post as business development-retention administrator at the end of his contract, and economic development will be handled by a new department.

Effective immediately, there will be a newly-created Business Development and Retention Division, the commissioners announced in a press release.

Senior business development specialist Helen Riddle will serve as acting director until a permanent director is named.

The new division will work directly with the county manager and the board, the press release states.

As part of the county's "open for business" strategy, the new division was created to better reflect priorities, the release states.

Boyer became division director in 2007 after serving as deputy director for five years. She previously served in other capacities within the county.

The Business Development and Retention Division will have offices at Winchester Hall. The commissioners also announced today that Tobin will leave his post at the end of his contract in March, and the position will be eliminated.

The board also plans to save money by eliminating the assistant county manager position — a job that is now vacant — and reducing the board's receptionist position to part time. The current receptionist applied for and was offered a job as an administrative specialist in the Planning and Development Review Department.

The board also converted a grant-funded business development position held by Sherman Coleman to a full-time post.

The county estimates it will save \$200,000 by not renewing Tobin's contract and the other changes, according to the press release.

Boyer was paid \$119,714 this past year, according to a salary database constructed by The Frederick News-Post. Tobin's contract was for \$89,000 annually, according to previous reports. For more on this story, see Friday's News-Post.