

BDC swears in new board members



CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY CHERYL MATTIX Bainbridge Development Corp. board member Delegate David Rudolph (D-Cecil) thanks former board member Carl Roberts for his work at Monday's meeting.

BDC Meeting

CECIL WHIG PHOTO BY CHERYL MATTIX Bainbridge Development Corporation board member David Rudolph thanks former board member Carl Roberts for his years of work at Monday's meeting.

By Cheryl Mattix cmattix@cecilwhig.com | Posted: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 9:32 pm

Bainbridge Development Corp. opened a new chapter in its 12-year history Monday night, saying goodbye to some members, hello to others and selecting Michael Pugh, who just completed his first year on the BDC, as the new chairman.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Derrick Lowe swore in Raymond "Chick" Hamm, a PNC bank officer, Harry Lenderman, owner of Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast, and Barry Gray, pastor of Port Deposit Presbyterian Church, as new members of the BDC. They replace Nelson Bolender and Carl Roberts, who were not reappointed, and Norman Gaither, who resigned this fall.

BDC members Cynthia Rossetti and Joe Brant were also sworn into another four-year term after recently being reappointed by the Cecil County commissioners.

Roberts accepted a request from the BDC to remain on as a volunteer in his role as negotiator of a new contract with MTPM, developers for the redevelopment of Bainbridge.

"I hope the special assignment you gave me tonight is short," Roberts said, as he thanked the BDC for their synergy and dedication working to solve what he says is a "very complex and difficult issue."

"If you keep your values and stick to the mission, this new board will be successful," Roberts said. "I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the BDC and congratulate Nelson for his leadership."

Roberts and Bolender spoke about their service to the BDC as the board honored them Monday night and Delegate David Rudolph presented them with citations from the House of Delegates.

Nelson, Roberts and Rossetti have served the longest on the BDC to date.

"I'm not upset," Roberts said about not being re-appointed. "Because, it's the long haul that's important to get Bainbridge moving."

Bolender began as an ex-officio member in his role as county commissioner prior to being appointed as a board member.

"If you want to know what's going on at Bainbridge, you really need to attend some of these meetings," Bolender said. He called Roberts the "MVP" of the board in recent years.

"Welcome aboard," Bolender said to the new members, heeding them, "they're expecting miracles from you."

The meeting ended what has been a controversial several weeks created while Cecil County commissioners debated whether or not to reappoint all of the BDC members who wanted to be reappointed, or instead replace them with new faces.

Ultimately, a majority of the county commissioners voted to replace Roberts and Bolender, despite pleas from BDC Executive Director Donna Tapley to keep them on the board because of their experience.

Tapley called Bolender and Roberts key members during some crucial negotiations with the Navy, MDE and the developers.

The new board voted to elect Michael Pugh as chairman, Bill Harrington as vice chairman, Raymond "Chick" Hamm as treasurer and Cynthia Rossetti as assistant secretary.

At the same time, they formed a new finance committee naming Hamm chairman and Joe Brant and Mario Gangemi as members.

"I don't underestimate the job of (chairman)," Pugh told the new board. "We'll try to move ahead."

Pugh said at its next meeting Jan. 16, the board will form other new committees and discuss structure of the new board.