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James G. Ashworth Jr.

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Mayor

Roy M. Gladding

Town Council

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Katherine B. Carlton

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 30th, 2023

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Town of Tappahannock Awarded Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) Development Grant

The Town of Tappahannock is pleased to announce that the Town is a recipient of a \$261,300 grant award from the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) Development Grant. This grant is awarded from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership for planning and design services. These funds will support the development of an industrial park located at 540 Airport Road; property formerly known as the ‘old airport.’

540 Airport Road is a former Federal Airport that was decommissioned in 1955. Following that, the property was acquired as a donation to the Town. Since the acquisition, the 126-acre property has been rented out to local farmers for temporary grain storage. The Town has aspired to turn this property into an industrial park for many years. Mayor, Roy M. Gladding, stated, “The Town is honored to receive this grant for the industrial park. This grant will support the Town’s economic development initiatives.”

Construction is not expected to begin for another 24-36 months. The Town’s goal is to locate higher wage paying employers shortly after construction is complete. The principal use of land and buildings will be for light use manufacturing and assembly plants, processing storage, warehousing, wholesaling, and distribution. It is the intent that permitted uses of each operation is confined within an enclosed building limiting noises, odor, dust, and glare.

Town Manager, Eric Pollitt, remarked “We will continue to work with TRC Companies to advance this project forward.” Connie Dalton, Director of Community Development added that “From a community development perspective, this grant provides the Town with an excellent long-term opportunity to provide for diversity in employment opportunities and the opportunity to provide additional business services to support our region. We are excited to

utilize this exceptional resource for our community.” Councilman, Troy Balderson stated “This is great news for Tappahannock and Essex County. This money will help the Town prepare the Old Airport property for future commercial development. This will support our community’s continued economic growth.”

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Manager Eric S. Pollitt at (804) 443-3336 or epollitt@tappahannock-va.gov, Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.