JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

OF

FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUTIES

Minutes of Meeting

October 23, 2017

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday October 23, 2017 in the conference room of St. Mary’s Sacred Heart Hospital in Lavonia, Georgia.

Members attending were: Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Brian James, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Also present: Attorney Andrea Grant; Economic Developers Dwayne Dye, Frank Ginn, Tim Martin; Secretary M. S. Smith, Jack Edmunds; Department of Community Affairs, Kathy Papa; Representative Collins Office, Joel Katz; Senator Isakson’s Office, Amy Turner; Senator Perdue’s Office, Andrew Seaver; Chairman of Hart County Board of Commissioners, Joey Dorsey and Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Tonya Powers.

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed guests. He called on Brian James to give the invocation.

The minutes of the July 24, 2017 were approved on a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Crocker.

Ms. Smith presented a financial summary as of September 30, 2017. The report was accepted on a motion by Mayor Owens and seconded by Mr. Cape.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Cleveland called on Mr. Martin to give an update of the North Georgia Network Broadband project.

Mr. Martin brought the group up to date beginning with background information and concept on the project as well as the route involved. Joel Katz informed the group of Representative Collins interest in making this service available to more areas and work being done in that direction.

Chairman Cleveland introduced a discussion on Intermodal Freight Transport. He spoke of Mr. Ginn’s interest in an inland port in this area and encouraged the Authority to continue pursuing this. He asked the economic developers from each of the three counties to actively investigate the cost, need, availability of property and feasibility of an inland port in this area.

Mr. Ginn spoke of some of the conflicting issues surrounding an inland port project and his desire to continue working on this.

Mr. Dorsey commented on the subject and the need for this group to take the initiative in pursuing this possibility.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Cleveland reported there is an industry prospect for a 12 acre site in Gateway I. No final decision has been made by the prospect but they have made some requests and Chairman Cleveland wanted to get authority approval since there will not be another meeting until January. Under the proposal being considered the prospect would purchase the 12 acres for $30,000 per acre. Seventy-five percent of the sale proceeds would be returned to the buyer for site preparation and 25 percent would go to the Joint Development Authority. The project would be a ten million dollar investment providing approximately 40 jobs.

He asked for a motion to approve the sale based on the above conditions. Mayor Owens made this motion, Mr. Evans seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Cleveland then asked for approval of a $10,000,000 Bond Inducement Resolution and authorization for the Chairman and Secretary to sign these documents. Mr. Evans made the motion, Mr. Cape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS REPORTS

Mr. Dye reported that the recent GEDA conference was beneficial. He stated that the College and Career Academy in Hart County is open and to date, 15 students are enrolled.

He commented on the recently announced Nestle Purina project coming to Hart County. This will be a $320,000,000 investment and provide 240 jobs.

Mr. Martin reported they have 8 named prospects in Stephens County. He told the group of two initiatives they are working on with Georgia Power related to the retail and hospitality areas.

He announced an Ollies will be opening in early 2018 and that BRAG is considering Stephens County as a stop.

He also commented on the continuing sewer expansion project as well as their movie activity.

Mr. Ginn reported that activity in Franklin still looks good. He told the group that the Georgia Power Resource Center is now referred to as the Georgia Experience Center.

OTHER REPORTS

Ms. Turner of Senator Isakson’s office reported that the 2018 budget was passed. Senator Isakson is Chairman of the Veterans Administration Committee and continues working in this area.

Mr. Katz commented on progress of the Hart State Park Project. He also commented on the Savanah River Basin project.

Mr. Seaver, Senator Perdue’s office, commented on scheduled happenings and a disaster relief package.

Ms. Papa, Department of Community Affairs, updated the group on two new grant programs.

Chairman Cleveland told the members that their county would soon be billed for $3,500 for the annual support for operating expenses of the authority

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

M. S. Smith

Secretary