

**JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF  
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**January 25, 2016**

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday January 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Currahee Campus of North Georgia Technical College.

Members present were: Doug Cleveland, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Greg Roach, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Others present were: Economic Developers Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin; Attorney Janney Sanders; Lyn Allen; Jack Edmunds; Kathy Papa, Georgia Department of Community Affairs and M. S. Smith, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. 16

Chairman Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and called on Dwayne Dye for an invocation.

The minutes of the October 26, 2015 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Evans.

Ms. Smith presented a financial summary as of December 31, 2015. Mr. Leard moved that this be accepted, Mr. Foster seconded and all voted in favor. A copy is attached.

Chairman Cleveland reported on the rejection of the Carnesville Industrial Park grant in the amount of \$449,982.00. Mayor Owens commented that they can re-apply for a lesser amount of \$250,000.00.

Chairman Cleveland reported on the closeout of the Fiber Optic Network grant.

There was no business to be brought before the authority.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS REPORTS**

Mr. Martin gave statistics for last year's project activity in Stephens County.

He said the CSX rail project is now connected. He reported that the Georgia Highway 17 project completion date of May 31, 2016 may be extended to July 15, 2016. He also mentioned that they now have 1200 Face Book "likes".

Mr. Dye announced the GEDA annual luncheon will be held Thursday January 28, 2016 in Atlanta.

He reported that Hart County's unemployment is at 5.5% down from a high of 13.8%. He also stated that Hart County moved from Tier 1 status to Tier 2 as of January 1, 2016.

Mr. Dye commented on the recent announcement of a new industry, Linde+Wiemann, which will bring 200 jobs and is a 35 million dollar investment. He anticipates this project to move quickly.

Mr. Dye emphasized the importance of the sewer project between Hart County and the City of Lavonia to the Linde Wiemann project as well as the Haering project.

Mayor Owens reported for Franklin that he recently met with prospects on the TNS Building and anticipates that building to be occupied soon.

No one has been selected to replace Cary Bennett yet but Brian James has been recommended. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners will make that appointment.

Mr. Martin reported that Jeremy Spradlin is the new local manager for the Toccoa Georgia Power Office.

Kathy Papa made comments regarding the Tier rankings.

The next meeting was announced for April 25, 2016 in Franklin County.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm and Mr. Roach conducted a tour of new industrial technology and health science departments for those interested.

M. S. Smith  
Recording Secretary