

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

**Minutes of Meeting
January 23, 2012**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties held the quarterly meeting on Monday January 23, 2012 at Fletcher's in Hartwell.

In the absence of Chairman Doug Cleveland, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice Chairman Cary Bennett. Other members present were Vernon Cape, Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Bill Leard, Cam Parker, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Others in attendance were Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin, economic developers, Jack Edmunds treasurer and Pudge Smith, secretary. Guests, Katie Greer, office of Senator Paul Broun and Jim Hussey, office of Senator Saxby Chambliss were welcomed by Mr. Bennett.

The invocation was given by Vernon Edwards and dinner followed.

Minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting had been mailed or e-mailed. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary and asked for questions. A copy is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Martin gave an update on the Regional GA Mountains Manufacturing Work Ready Initiative and the status of the expenditures of the \$350,000 grant.

Each county economic developer brought the authority up to date on the work ready activity in their county.

Ms. Allen announced the Tri-County Manufacturing meeting to be held February 23, 2012 at the Currahee Campus of North Georgia Tech. Bill Nessbaum of Georgia Tech will be a speaker and Connie Smith, Georgia Department of Labor will attend as well.

Ms. Allen reported that the regional medical center construction is on schedule and anticipates being in operation in the early summer. Mr. Edmunds reported that tours of the new facility will begin to be offered for community and civic groups in March.

Ms. Allen reported for the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance that the group just completed the boat show in Atlanta; that plans are underway for the 50 year Hartwell Dam celebration and that a watercraft event will be held on Lake Hartwell at Tugaloo in August.

Mr. Martin brought the group up to date on the Broadband project. He reviewed the financial outlay and presented each member with a map of the area a new network might cover. (Copy attached.) Mr. Martin presented the group with the opportunity for another grant to follow the feasibility study. This OneGeorgia Implementation Grant for \$1,000,000 comes with a 20% match. The Authority would need to come up with \$5,000 grant writing fee (\$833.34 for each of the six counties). Mr. Edwards made a motion that the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties be the primary applicant for a \$1,000,000 OneGeorgia equity grant, with the Banks, Habersham and Rabun Joint Development Authority being the co-applicant. Further that the Authority's chairman be authorized to execute any documentation required by this application, and that any agreement with the utility companies or any other party be subject to review by our legal counsel prior to execution and submission of the application. Mr. Parker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Attorney Gordon stated he would be glad to review all documentation but disclosed that he was general counsel for Hart EMC. He advised that in the event a conflict of interest became evident, we should have another attorney handle the review.

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Mr. Martin reported on jobs tax credit tiers and that Stephens is appealing to the Department of Community Affairs to remain a tier 2. They have recently been raised to a tier 3. Caterpillar has announced an expansion that will create 50 new jobs. He also reported that phase 2 of the Haystone Brady Industrial Park is complete and phase 3 is in the future.

Ms. Allen reported expansion in several existing companies that will create approximately 25 jobs. Other activity is good.

Mr. Dye reported that existing expansion is outpacing new industry and he hopes to be given a go ahead to make some announcements soon. New activity is foreign rather than domestic.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Martin reported on the LEAN Manufacturing Boot Camp to be held March 13 through 16, 2012 at the Strawhouse in Toccoa. (A flier is attached.)

Mr. Martin also talked about the GROW (Ga Reaching Out Worldwide) initiative. (A flier with information on this is attached.)

Mr. Dye reported that this authority has been asked to make a presentation at the State Project Managers meeting in Atlanta on March 12, 2012.

Ms. Allen announced the DAT (Development Authority Training) to be held April 18, 2012 at the North Georgia Tech Currahee Campus. On a motion by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Scarborough, approval was given for the JDA to pay registration fees for the first 5 authority members desiring to attend.

Mr. Bennett called on Katie Greer of Senator Paul Brown's office for comments. She commended the authority for their good work and offered the assistance of their office for help or research.

Mr. Hussey of Senator Saxby Chambliss' office spoke of area events and offered help from their office as well.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**Pudge Smith
Recording Secretary**