

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

Minutes of Meeting

October 27, 2014

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday October 27, 2014 at Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center in Lavonia, Georgia at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Cleveland. He welcomed guests Ilka McConnell of Hart County Archway Partnership, Kathy Papa of Georgia Department of Labor and Paul Puccliarrelli, intern with Stephens County Economic Developer Tim Martin.

The invocation was given by Dwayne Dye and the meal followed.

Members present were: Cary Bennett, Doug Cleveland, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Greg Roach and Dean Scarborough. Others attending were Economic Developers Lyn Allen, Frank Ginn, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin; Attorneys Andrea Grant and Walter Gordon; Treasurer Jack Edmunds and Secretary M. S Smith.

The minutes of the July 28, 2014 had been mailed or e-mailed. No changes were noted and they were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Leard.

Mr. Edmunds presented a financial summary as of September 30, 2014 compared to previous quarter. On a motion by Mr. Leard and seconded by Mr. Scarborough, the report was unanimously accepted. A copy is attached.

Mr. Edmunds then presented the audit as of June 30, 2014 a copy of which each member had previously been provided. On a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Evans, this audit was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Martin reported on the status of the Broadband project. The work is complete and a final payment of \$133,100 will be due NGN. Of this, \$83,100 will be the remaining amount of the OneGeorgia Grant/Loan and a final draw request will be submitted this week. The other \$50,000 will be our local match, currently on deposit in our grant account.

Mr. Martin presented a request that the authority approve re-appropriating of funds in regards to the broadband grant. This would mean funds allocated for one area of expense could be re-allocated to another area of expense. A motion to approve this request was made by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. He stated that the next phase of the Broadband project will be pursued and a request of \$495,000 will be submitted soon.

Chairman Cleveland reported that the project to enhance the entrance to Gateway I is still in progress.

Chairman Cleveland reviewed the terms of office that will expire December 31, 2014 and they are:

Vernon Cape and Gerald Voyles	Franklin County
Roy Crocker and Vernon Edwards	Hart County
Don Foster and Greg Roach	Stephens County

ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS REPORTS

Mr. Martin reported that the highway 17 project continues to progress. He stated that the sewer project had been rejected because it was not deemed a project of regional significance. He said there continues to be conversation regarding the need for speculative buildings in his area.

Mr. Roach reported that the ribbon cutting on October 7th for the new science wing at the Currahee Campus of North Georgia Technical College was very successful and well attended.

Mr. Martin reported that another solar project is underway. He added that project activity has been fair. He said Brittany Ivey is the new administrative assistant for his office. Mr. Scarborough announced that GEM Industries is building a new \$10 million building that will create 15 new jobs. They will be gifting their old facility to the county.

Mr. Ginn invited everyone to a farewell drop-in for Lyn Allen on Wednesday October 29.

He commented on the possibility of a Franklin County landfill project. He also shared his intention to introduce legislation regarding CVU exemption status.

Mr. Dye reported he had recently attended the GEDA conference in Savannah and that several good programs were presented. He stated that Hart County had hosted a successful Regional Economic Developers meeting at Catechee on October 15. He sees significant prospect interest this year over 2013. He spoke of the lack of sewer adequacy in the Gateway parks.

Ms. Papa, Georgia Department of Labor, advised the group of Rusty Haygood joining their department as the Director of the DCA Economic Development Office and will serve as the Field Service Representative for Region 2.

The next meeting was announced for January 26, 2015 in Hart County,

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

**M. S. Smith
Secretary**