

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
July 23, 2012**

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday July 23, 2012 at the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center in Lavonia, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. Others members present were Cary Bennett, Roy Crocker, Bob Evans Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Cam Parker and Dean Scarborough. Others in attendance were Janney Sanders, Attorney, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin, Economic Developers, Jack Edmunds, Treasurer and Pudge Smith, Secretary.

Mr. Cleveland welcomed guests Tate O'Rourke, office of Senator Johnny Isackson, Jim Hussey, office of Senator Saxby Chambliss and Jerry Wise, COO of Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center.

Vernon Edwards gave the invocation prior to dinner.

Chairman Cleveland thanked Mr. Wise for the tour given the members prior to the meeting and also the complimentary dinner. Mr. Wise made brief remarks about the hospital's first few weeks of operation.

Minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting had been mailed or e-mailed. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were accepted on a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Foster.

Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary. A copy is attached. Mr. Edmunds then presented the budget for the authority for the year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. On a motion by Mayor Owens and seconded by Mr. Evans, this budget was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Martin reviewed the Work Ready initiative and the achievements over the past 18 months. All 21 goals will be achieved by July 31, 2012.

Mr. Bennett informed the group of the Triple Crown Water Cross event to be sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce August 10 - 12. He also announced a Damiversary event to be held at the Bowers House in Canon on August 12.

Mr. Martin gave detailed background information on the broadband project to date and announced that North Georgia Networks has been selected as our partner and will be responsible for the construction as well as the \$150,000 loan portion of the award from OneGeorgia. He also announced that approval from the Department of Community Affairs has been given to proceed with the project.

Mr. Martin reported that there may be some unused funds from the feasibility study. Mr. Parker made a motion to transfer any unused community match funds related to BRIDGE Grant Award number 11gb-mcr-3-4652 for use toward the community match required for Equity Grant/Loan Award number 12gg-MCR-3-4683. Mr. Scarborough seconded this motion and it passed.

Chairman Cleveland commended Mr. Martin and office for the work on this project.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS REPORT**

**Mr. Dye reported on the GEDA Spring Workshop held May 16 – 18 at Brasstown Valley. All three economic developers attended and felt it was a good conference.**

**Mayor Owens reported on the closing of Parkdale(?) and the loss of approximately 300 jobs, however they are in discussion with a couple of prospects interested in re-opening the \_\_\_\_\_. Two industries feel optimistic about some opportunities that may be created by the new Caterpillar plant in Athens. Four industries in Franklin County have put expansion projects on hold. The recent grand opening of the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center was very successful.**

**Mayor Owens and Ms. Allen recently met with individuals from Milliken regarding the property on Highway 59 between Lavonia and Gateway. Milliken agrees to let Franklin market this property in lieu of a purchase.**

**Mr. Dye reported that activity continues to be strong in Hart County stating that 75 percent of interest is through foreign investment. He said SD Automotive's apprenticeship program has been very successful and in addition to the 8 originally hired, they have plans to hire 8 more.**

**Mr. Martin gave a recap of job additions and expansions for their fiscal year just ended June 30, 2012. He stated they continue to experience strong activity.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mr. Dye announced that the annual GEDA meeting will be held in Savannah September 12 – 14.**

**Mr. Edwards presented the following slate of officers for the year 2012 – 2013 and moved they be accepted:**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Doug Cleveland</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Cary Bennett</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bill Leard</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jack Edmunds</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Pudge Smith</b>

**Mr. Evans seconded this motion and they were elected.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ms. O'Rourke gave a brief update on legislative activity and announced that Senator Isackson will be touring the area in August. A town hall meeting will be held August 22 at the North Georgia Technical College campus from 3:30 to 4:30 pm where Senator Isackson will speak.**

**Mr. Hussey also gave some brief remarks on activity. He announced the re-districting of regions and that he will move to another region and this region will be covered by Darren Kendall.**

**Mr. Cleveland reported that Hart County is one of eight Archway Partnerships in the state and that Mr. Dye was recently sponsored by Archway on a trip to China to represent our area.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.**

**Pudge Smith  
Recording Secretary**