

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
July 22, 2013**

**The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday April 22, 2013 at Fletcher's in Hartwell, Georgia.**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. He welcomed guests Kathy Papa from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Danette Smith from the Georgia Department of Labor.**

**Members present were Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bill Leard, Greg Roach, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Others attending were Attorney Walter Gordon; Economic Developers Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye, Tim Martin, Treasurer Jack Edmunds and Secretary M.S. Smith.**

**The invocation was given by Vernon Cape.**

**The minutes of the April 22, 2013 meeting had been mailed or e-mailed. No additions or corrections were noted and they were approved unanimously.**

**Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary as of June 30, 2013 and it was accepted unanimously. The audit for FYE June 30, 2012 was reviewed by Mr. Edmunds and it was unanimously accepted. Mr. Edmunds presented the budget for FYE June 30, 2014 and it was unanimously approved. A copy of each of these is attached and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Edmunds reported that Auditor Wayne Bowen is closing his practice due to health reasons and the firm of Burch, Crooms and Company, LLP, CPAs of Hartwell has been hired to do the current audit.**

**Mr. Scarborough mentioned that receiving regular operating money from our three counties (each contributed \$1,500 in December of 2012) would be helpful. He suggested we request that amount on an annual basis.**

**Dean Scarborough proposed the following slate of officers for the coming year:**

<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>

**On a motion by Mr. Roach and seconded by Mr. Foster, these were unanimously elected.**

**Mr. Martin discussed a Toccoa-Stephens County sanitary sewer collection system project. They are seeking a \$500,000 OneGa Equity grant and asked that the Joint Development Authority be the applicant. He asked approval for this as well as signatures for all necessary documents. On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Leard, this motion unanimously passed.**

**Mr. Cleveland asked for approval for the transfer of approximately 12.5 acres at Gateway I to the Hart County Industrial Building Authority for \$50,000. The HCIBA would then sell this property to a prospect, financing it over a five year period at zero percent interest rate. The HCIBA will repay the Joint Development Authority as they receive payment. This 3.5 to 4.0 million dollar investment will provide approximately 50 new jobs. This was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mr. Scarborough.**

**Mr. Martin gave an update on the progress of the Broadband project. He reported that Hart Telephone has now become a part of this project.**

**Ms. Papa announced that Appalachian Regional Commission applications are due in August and that the deadline for applications to the Georgia Academy for Economic Development has been extended to July 30.**

**Ms. Smith from the Department of Labor announced a Regional Employer Summit at North Georgia Technical College on October 23. Mark Butler, Commissioner, will speak as well as others.**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMERS REPORTS**

**Ms. Allen reported that unemployment is still in double digits and they recently lost a large project to Florida. On the positive side, existing industry is showing some growth and one expansion is in progress. A potential project in the Gerrard Road Industrial Park could mean 20 new jobs. Application has been made for zoning variance to place a solar farm on part of the Sibley property. Hampton Inn is planning a new hotel next to J Peters Restaurant with construction possibly to begin in August. She reported that Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center recently celebrated its first anniversary.**

**Mr. Martin gave an update on project activity over the last year in Stephens County. He also gave an update on the industrial park and North Georgia Tech campus additions as well as the widening of highway 17.**

**Mr. Dye reported that unemployment for Hart County has been below 10 percent for the past two months. He noted that he, Ms. Allen and Mr. Martin made a presentation recently to the Georgia Resource Center in Atlanta. He reported that the 3 million dollar loan from USDA for the purchase of additional property in the Gateway area has been verbally approved and he anticipates closing soon. He reported that a Project Managers Tour is scheduled for September 5 and that a road upgrade at Gateway should happen soon. He commented on the Georgia State Patrol project that will be located on the new property being purchased at Gateway across from RITZ Transformers that will create 14 new jobs.**

**The next meeting was announced for October 28 in Stephens County.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm**

**M.S. Smith  
Recording Secretary**