

**JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES
Minutes of Meeting**

January 25, 2010

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties met for the quarterly meeting on January 25, 2010 at the Currahee Campus of North Georgia Technical College in Stephens County.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. Attending were authority members Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Cam Parker, Dean Scarborough and Shuratt Whitworth. Also attending were Dwayne Dye, Jack Edmunds, treasurer, Lyn Allen, Tim Martin and Pudge Smith, recording secretary

Vernon Cape gave the invocation and dinner followed.

Following dinner, Chairman Cleveland offered condolences to Lyn Allen in the recent death of her father.

Chairman Cleveland then offered congratulations to Dean Scarborough on becoming the chairman of the Stephens County Board of Commissioners.

The minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer Jack Edmunds reviewed the financial information and asked for questions. On a motion by Mr. Cape and seconded by Mr. Foster, the financial information was unanimously accepted. Mr. Edmunds then presented the audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2009 and asked for questions or comments. On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Scarborough, the audit was unanimously accepted. A copy of each is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Chairman Cleveland reported that the light on the water tank at Gateway is out but he has contacted someone to take care of this problem.

Old Business

Chairman Cleveland called for reports on Mega Ramps. Mr. Dye reported for Hart County that a fishing pier has been opened and the Gum Branch project is slated for completion in May or June. A jet ski tournament is scheduled for

August. Mr. Martin reported that Stephens County is still negotiating with Corp of Engineers on a fishing pier. Cary Bennett reported on a possible Bass tournament through the GA Bass Federation that could bring 210 boats to the area and the need to finish the ramp by April.

Ms. Allen passed around a marketing brochure prepared by Mr. Martin and his office and commended them on their excellent work. She suggested these be used to mail out with inquiries about the area.

Ms. Allen reported on the transition of the Franklin County Work Ready leadership from the Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Authority to the Business Committee. She also reported that they are working on Phase II and doing assessments each month.

Mr. Martin reported that Stephens County is working on their second level and also doing assessments.

Mr. Dye reported Hart County is also in Phase II and five companies and two public entities have signed on to the program. He said 1060 certificates have been issued so far.

New Business

Mr. Dye reported that the fourth quarter Tri-County Manufacturer's Council was cancelled due to program issues. Plans are to re-schedule for February or March.

Chairman Cleveland asked the group about e-mailing future meeting information in lieu of regular mail and this was acceptable.

Bill Leard gave an overview of the North Georgia Network Cooperative and Mr. Martin also made some comments on this program.

Mr. Martin reported on the presentation made to Senator Butterworth on economic development in his senate district. He felt it went well and was well received. Each county had an opportunity for a photo-op that could result in good publicity.

County Economic Development Reports

Mr. Dye reported there is some re-hiring and two businesses are expanding. New activity is steady but slow. Mr. Dye cautioned the group about e-mail addresses on web sites and the problem it created for him and how to correct the problem.

Ms. Allen reported although it is pretty quiet on the project front, there are plans for expansion within present facilities in some existing industries. She indicated work continues on a new industrial site in Carnesville. She also discussed the progress on the proposed new hospital in Lavonia and the economic impact on the area.

Mr. Martin reported a closing in March that will affect 91 jobs. Mr. Parker reported on a lift station and a park to be funded through SPLOST. Mr. Martin reported some existing projects are doing well and some inquiries have been received from new business prospects. The county was awarded \$500,000 by OneGeorgia in December for an airport terminal. Stephens County is planning a Day in the Capitol for February. Mr. Martin reported that Senator Butterworth would like to attend one of the quarterly Joint Authority meetings. He also reported that Mr. Parker and Mr. Scarborough will be leading a delegation to Washington in February.

Mr. Martin covered highlights of the Norton Agency brochure.

The next meeting was announced for April 26, 2010 at 211 Main Street restaurant in Lavonia.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

**M. S. Smith
Recording Secretary**