

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

**Minutes of Meeting
October 24, 2011**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties met for the quarterly meeting on Monday October 24, 2011 at Shoney's Restaurant in Lavonia.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Cleveland at 6:00 pm. Others members present were Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Bill Leard, Cam Parker, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Others attending were Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin, Economic Developers, Jack Edmunds, Treasurer and Pudge Smith, recording secretary. Guests were Tate O'Rourke, office of Senator Johnny Isakson, Jared Peden, office of Congressman Paul Broun and Billy Morse, Franklin County Manager.

The invocation was given by Vernon Cape and dinner followed.

Minutes of the July 25, 2011 meeting had been mailed or e-mailed. Chairman Cleveland asked for corrections or additions. There being none, the minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Vernon Edwards and seconded by Don Foster.

Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary and asked for questions. On a motion by Mr. Leard and seconded by Mr. Scarborough, this report was accepted. Mr. Edmunds also presented the audit for the year ended June 30, 2011. After a brief review and comments, he asked for questions. There being none, on a motion by Mr. Edwards and a second by Mr. Evans, the audit was accepted. (Copies attached)

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Martin reported on the Regional GA Mountain Manufacturing Work Ready Initiative meeting held recently in Lavonia. It is expected that all six counties in the region will be fully certified by the end of the year. All six counties are at or above the graduation rate goal.

On the local Work Ready level, Mr. Martin had nothing to report.

Ms. Allen reported that Franklin County has a new site for assessment and that they have slightly over 1800 certified.

Mr. Dye reported that Hart County has over 2000 certified at this point.

Ms. Allen reported they are working on a Tri-County Manufacturing meeting for November.

Mr. Dye reported that the GEDA annual conference in Savannah had a strong focus on export and good networking was provided.

Mr. Morse gave an update on road and road improvements at the regional medical center. He said the county is working with the DOT on some of these projects. Ms. Allen reported that the project is on schedule with anticipated opening in June of 2012.

Ms. Allen reported that the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance has been selected by the Corps of Engineers to coordinate an event for the 50th anniversary of the dam celebration in 2012. The six counties involved are Franklin, Hart and Stephens in Georgia and Anderson, Oconee and Pickens in South Carolina. A jet ski event is scheduled at Tugaloo for 2012 and the Atlanta Boat Show is coming up in January. The Alliance now has a web site.

Mr. Martin gave a progress report on the broadband initiative stating that we are four months into a six month study. He explained a need to extend this study by six months and that DCA and OneGeorgia is agreeable to an extension. On a motion by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Leard, Chairman Cleveland was authorized to execute this extension agreement on behalf of the joint authority.

Mr. Martin also reported good support from the EMC's and especially Hart EMC.

Mr. Edmunds reviewed a report of contributions from each county since the joint authority was organized. He explained that there have been no new contributions from the three counties in the last several years and requests for additional funds in the very near future should be considered.

Mr. Martin reported very good project activity in Stephens County in the last 60 days. He reported on Haystone Brady Industrial Park and the recent improvements. He also reported on good activity there and the positive impact since the park is more complete.

Ms. Allen reported an increase in activity in Franklin County. A lease has been signed on the spec building that should provide 10 jobs at the outset.

Mr. Dye also reported an increase in activity. He also reported good activity in existing industry with possible expansion announcements in the next 30 - 45 days.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Peden made brief comments on behalf of their offices.

The next meeting will be January 23, 2012 in Hart County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

**Pudge Smith
Recording Secretary**