

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

**Minutes of Meeting**

**July 28, 2014**

**The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday July 28, 2014 at The Clary Center of the Stephens County Hospital at 6:00 pm.**

**The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Cleveland. The invocation was given by Vernon Edwards and the meal followed.**

**Members present were: Doug Cleveland, Roy Crocker, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Greg Roach, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Others attending were Economic Developers Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye, Frank Ginn and Tim Martin; Attorney Janney Sanders, Treasurer Jack Edmunds and Secretary M.S. Smith. Guests were Tate O'Rourke of Senator Isakson's Office, Ilka McConnell of Hart County Archway Partnership, Kathy Papa of Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Stami Williams of Senator Chambliss' Office.**

**Ed Gambrell, Administrator for Stephens County Hospital, welcomed everyone to their facility and made some brief comments regarding their operation.**

**Mr. Cleveland welcomed guests Tate O'Rourke, Stami Williams, Kathy Papa and Ilka McConnell.**

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

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

**Mr. Edmunds then presented a budget for fiscal year July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 as well as a Source and Use of Funds Schedule for the same period. On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Leard, both were unanimously approved. A copy of each is attached.**

**Mr. Martin gave an update on the Broadband project indicating \$730,000 has been spent and reimbursed by the Department of Community Affairs. The total**

**project amount of \$998,000 is expected to be spent in the near future. He also reported the additional grant request of \$495,000 to further expand the project had been denied due to the fact that the first grant has not yet been fully expended.**

**Mr. Martin reported that a \$500,000 grant application to OneGeorgia for a water and sewer plant in Stephens County was denied but the application can be re-submitted in October.**

**Chairman Cleveland reported that the USDA loan has been refinanced through Pinnacle Bank. Payments for this loan are made by Hart County.**

**Chairman Cleveland explained that \$28,000 has been kept in reserve as required by the USDA and this money would now be freed up. He asked that this money be used for enhancement to the Gateway I park entrance. He presented renderings of plans made by interns from the University of Georgia secured through the Archway Partnership. A question of who would maintain the landscaping was asked and Mr. Dye explained that a scope of maintenance agreement was being reviewed by Attorney Walter Gordon and when final, bids for maintenance would be obtained. On a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Foster, approval was given to use the \$28,000 reserve for the purpose of enhancement to the Gateway I park entrance.**

**Lyn Allen, Economic Developer for Franklin County, announced she is retiring at the end of October and she introduced Frank Ginn, who will be her replacement.**

**Ms. Allen reported that while there is activity it could be better. There is still expansion activity. As of June 30, 125 new jobs have been created with \$9.2 million in investment.**

**Mr. Ginn commended Ms. Allen on the fine job she has done and said he would begin his new job with her this week. He also commented on a meeting he has arranged to pursue the linking of rail lines through our three counties and Elbert County.**

**Mr. Martin had prepared a handout outlining activity in Stephens County this year and he reviewed that with the group. He commented that Stephens County has done well with speculative buildings in the past.**

**Mr. Dye reported that there was not as much activity from the state in the spring as in the past. A recent new industry, Lake Foods, is now up to 37 employees and anticipates reaching 125.**

**Mr. Roach announced a ribbon cutting for the new Health Care Wing at North Georgia Technical College on October 7. He will provide more details later.**

**Ms. O'Rourke gave a brief update from Senator Isakson's office stating a six week recess begins in August.**

**Ms. Williams also made comments on behalf of Senator Chambliss' office.**

**Ms. Papa announced a Georgia Academy for Economic Development Class coming up and distributed a handout.**

**Mr. Crocker reported for the nominating committee and presented the following slate of officers:**

<b>Doug Cleveland</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Cary Bennett</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Bill Leard</b>	<b>Corporate Secretary</b>
<b>Jack Edmunds</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>M. S Smith</b>	<b>Recording Secretary</b>

**On a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Roach, these were unanimously approved.**

**Mr. Cleveland reviewed the terms of office that will expire this year. They are:**

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

**Mr. Edmunds said he would send invoices to each county for their annual contribution of \$3,500.**

**Mr. Crocker questioned the Highway 17 alignment planned by the DOT through Franklin County and Hart County and expressed concern about the possible impact on the Bowersville area.**

**The next meeting was announced for October 27 in Franklin County.**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm**

**M. S. Smith  
Secretary**