

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

**Minutes of Meeting
January 24, 2011**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties met for the quarterly meeting on January 24, 2011 at *211 Main Street Restaurant* in Lavonia,

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. Others members attending were Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Cam Parker and Dean Scarborough. Also attending were Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin, Economic Developers, Jack Edmunds, treasurer and Pudge Smith, recording secretary. Mr. Cleveland welcomed the following guests:

**Ms. Tate Izlar, representing the office of Senator Johnny Isakson
Sgt. Major Jim Hussey, representing the office of Senator Saxby Chambliss
Mr. Harris Little, Mayor of Carnesville
Mr. Billy Morse, Franklin County Manager**

He also congratulated re-appointed members Roy Crocker and Vernon Edwards for Hart County; Don Foster and Cam Parker for Stephens County; and Vernon Cape for Franklin County. He noted Franklin County has one re-appointment still to be named.

Mr. Dwayne Dye gave the invocation and the meal followed.

Mr. Harris Little, member of the executive committee of the TSPLOST initiative gave an overview of this initiative and explained some of the intricacies of the plan. This will appear on the ballot in November of 2012.

Mr. Cleveland called on Mr. Hussey for any comments he might like to make. Mr. Hussey spoke to the importance of getting TSPLOST passed. He then called on Ms. Izlar and she also spoke of the importance of this initiative and the fact that Georgia is behind neighboring states in this effort. Mr. Cleveland thanked them both for taking the time to attend our meeting.

Chairman Cleveland called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the October 25, 2010 meeting that had been provided by e-mail or mail. There being none, they were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Edmunds presented a financial summary and asked for questions. On a motion by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mr. Leard, this report was accepted.

Mr. Martin reported on the receipt of a \$350,000.00 grant from the Governor's Office designated for Work Ready initiatives. This will be shared by the JDA's three counties plus Habersham County. Mr. Gerald Turner has been selected as program manager. This is an 18 month project with a 20 person leadership team from the four counties.

Mr. Martin reported that although their Work Ready goals have been achieved, they continue to work on this program.

Ms. Allen reported that they are in the final six months of phase II and that their goals have been met.

Mr. Dye reported that Hart County has 3 times the certificates needed. He also mentioned a new initiative that allows individuals to re-test to move to a higher level.

Ms. Allen reported that the Tri County Manufacturing meetings continue on a quarterly basis with 25 - 30 attending. They continue to work on this program to encourage more participation.

Ms. Allen reported that she is optimistic for 2011 and has two projects she is working on.

Mr. Martin reported that the State of Georgia has designated 22 Opportunity Zones in Stephens County. This is an enhanced incentive program for industries creating jobs in designated areas. This designation is effective through tax year 2020. He also reported that Hayestone Brady Business Park has applied for the Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) site certification program. GRAD certified sites ensure that sites are well prepared for development.

He said project activity has been better in January but has nothing definite to report.

Mr. Dye reported that 2011 looks better than 2010. He has three expansions planned or in progress meaning approximately 120 jobs collectively but companies involved are reluctant to announce at this time. January interest is good.

Mr. Dye mentioned the GEDA Legislative Luncheon to be held January 28.

He also mentioned the GEDA workshop that this authority has been asked to participate in this spring.

Ms. Allen said the regional medical center project has broken ground and is scheduled for completion in May of 2012.

She also reported that the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance is active and will be collaborating with Clemson University and the University of Georgia on some initiatives.

The next meeting was announced for April 25, 2011 in Hart County.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

**M. S. Smith
Recording Secretary**