

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

**Minutes of Meeting
January 27, 2014**

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday January 27, 2014 at Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center lower level conference room at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice Chairman Cary Bennett. He welcomed Tate O'Rourke from Senator Isakson's office and called on Dwayne Dye for the invocation.

Members present were: Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Bill Leard, Mayor Ralph Owens, Greg Roach, and Dean Scarborough. Others attending were Economic Developers, Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin; Attorneys, Andrea Grant and Walter Gordon; Treasurer Jack Edmunds and Secretary M.S. Smith.

The minutes of the October 8, 2013 meeting had been mailed or e-mailed. No additions or corrections were noted and they were approved unanimously following a motion by Mr. Foster and seconded by Mr. Cape.

Mr. Edmunds presented and reviewed a current financial summary. Mr. Edmunds presented the audit for FYE June 30, 2013. On a motion by Mayor Owens and seconded by Mr. Leard, the audit was unanimously accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Martin updated the group on the progress of the Broadband project.

Mr. Edmunds reported that the refinance of the USDA loan to a local bank could possibly be finalized this week.

Mr. Martin reported on the status of the Veterans Parkway Infrastructure Project. Documentation and surveys are in place when funding is available.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Evans was commended on his recognition at last fall's GEDA conference. He was recognized as a "senior member" with almost 50 years participation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Mr. Martin commented on the closing of Wilbros under order from the EPA. An appeal is expected.

He reported that while prospect activity is quiet, a good number of companies are anticipating expansions.

It is anticipated the highway 17 project will be complete in early 2016. Mr. Martin had a handout for 2014 Job Tax Credit Tiers and he commented on this as well as Foreign-Trade Zone Sites.

Mr. Martin and Attorney Janney Sanders recently attended a workshop for the establishment of a Public Facilities Authority in Stephens County. They are moving ahead with the creation of this entity for their community.

Mr. Dye reported that Hart County is experiencing more existing industry expansion opportunities than new projects. Two expansions were announced at year end, Pharma Tech and Royston LLC.

Lake Foods, a new company announced for Hart County, is expected to eventually create 120 new jobs. They have already begun remodeling an existing building to accommodate the operation.

The recent Job Fair held at Cornerstone was successful and another is scheduled soon at Cateches.

Mr. Dye, Ms. Allen and Mr. Martin will be attending the annual GEDA Legislative Reception on Atlanta on January 29.

Ms. Allen reported a good start in January with Kautex announcing an expansion bringing 35 jobs. Other small expansions are in the works we well.

She said Franklin County has asked for a waiver on their tier status.

Ms. Allen reported on the progress at the Central Franklin Industrial Park and the status of two closed mill situations.

Ms. O'Rourke reported on current legislation in Washington.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

**M. S. Smith
Secretary**