

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

**Minutes of Meeting
October 1, 2012**

The quarterly meeting of the Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties was held Monday October 1, 2012 at Fletcher's Restaurant in Hartwell, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Chairman Doug Cleveland. Others members present were Cary Bennett, Roy Crocker, Bob Evans, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bill Leard, and Dean Scarborough. Others in attendance were Attorney Walter Gordon, Lyn Allen and Tim Martin, Economic Developers, Jack Edmunds, Treasurer and Pudge Smith, Secretary.

Mr. Cleveland welcomed Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs and Jordan Chinouth, representing the office of Representative Paul Broun.

Tim Martin gave the invocation.

Minutes of the July 23, 2012 meeting had been mailed or e-mailed. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were accepted on a motion by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Foster.

Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary and a copy is attached. On a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Evans, the financial summary was accepted.

Mr. Cleveland congratulated Cary Bennett for receiving the Citizen of the Year at the recent Franklin County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

Mr. Cleveland reminded each county of representatives whose term will be expiring at the end of this year:

Franklin County	Cary Bennett and Mayor Ralph Owens
Hart County	Doug Cleveland and Bill Leard
Stephens County	Bob Evans and Dean Scarborough and Unexpired term of Cam Parker

Mr. Martin gave a summary of the completed work ready program and a copy is attached. Chairman Cleveland called attention to Item 22, the Lean Boot Camp which was very successful.

Ms. Allen reported that the SPLOST lawsuit against Franklin County has been settled in their favor and funds are now available.

Ms. Allen reported on the recent watercross event in Franklin County. She noted next year's event will be held on the South Carolina side of Lake Hartwell.

Ms. Allen also reported that Larry Torrance of Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance is working with staff of Senator Isakson's office on the low lake level problem.

Ms. Allen reported that the GEDA Conference in Savannah held September 12 - 14 was a good conference which provided helpful information.

Mr. Cleveland shared with the group that Jim Blair, who has been with the Atlanta International Department of Economic Development, is leaving. He will be going to work for the German American Chamber of Commerce.

Franklin County project activity has slowed down but three projects are still open. There is some moderate activity in existing industry expansion.

Five bass tournaments are also anticipated in Franklin County next year.

Mr. Cleveland reported that activity has also slowed down in Hart County although there are still some projects on the table. He commented on good support from the State but that competition is still very keen.

Activity is also down in Stephens County according to Mr. Martin. Caterpillar should be in operation in November and some improvements should be complete at Hayestone in January. The Currahee Military Reunion is coming up this weekend and should create much festivity.

Ms. Papa from the Department of Community Affairs told the group that some of their department's surveys and reports are being streamlined. She also issued an invitation to celebrate rural Georgia in Tifton this weekend.

Mr. Chinouth of Representative Paul Broun's office reported that Rep. Broun and others from the Corps of Engineers office are doing a study of the Savannah River basin.

Mr. Martin gave background on the broadband project and presented the contract prepared by the attorneys for the North Georgia Network and the JDA to the authority for approval. A motion to approve the contract with North Georgia Network as presented by Mr. Martin and authorizing Chairman Cleveland to sign the contract and any other documentation approved by our legal counsel to advance this project was made by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Bennett. The motion unanimously passed.

The next quarterly meeting will be held January 28, 2013 in Stephens County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

M. S. Smith
Secretary