

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

**Minutes of Meeting
April 16, 2012**

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties held the quarterly meeting on Monday April 16, 2012 at the Willard Kimsey Environmental Center in Eastonollee, Georgia.

Chairman Doug Cleveland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Other members present were Cary Bennett, Vernon Cape, Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bill Leard, Cam Parker and Ralph Owens. Others in attendance were Janney Sanders, Attorney; Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin, Economic Developers; Jack Edmunds, Treasurer and Pudge Smith, Secretary

Mr. Cleveland welcomed guests Tate O'Rourke office of Senator Johnny Isakson, Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs and Connie Smith, Department of Labor.

Dwayne Dye gave the invocation and dinner followed.

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

Mr. Edmunds presented the financial summary and asked for questions. A copy is attached.

Mr. Cleveland asked for approval to open a checking account for the broadband equity grant funds. Mr. Leard made this motion, Mr. Bennett seconded it and it passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Martin reported that the regional work ready initiatives for the 6 counties will end soon and that it has been a very good program. Most recently, the LEAN Manufacturing Boot Camp was very successful with more response than anticipated.

Mr. Martin reported some concern over Work Ready being replaced by Go Build Georgia.

Mr. Martin reported good prospect activity. Five or six local companies are considering expansion. The economic developer's office is anticipating a new façade.

Mr. Parker reported that Hayestone is looking at new infrastructure to accommodate larger building sites as requested by prospects.

Ms. Allen reported Franklin County has two good projects in the works with some expansions hopefully to be announced soon.

The new hospital is on schedule to open July 1 with a grand opening planned for June 30. The authority's July meeting will be held there.

Mr. Dye reported on work ready and that Hart County received \$12,000 from the regional grant for testing.

He also reported that RITZ is expanding and anticipates a one million dollar capital outlay. He further added that overall project activity has picked up.

Ms. Allen reported on the "Damiversary" 50 year celebration in the six counties beginning later this month as well as the Watercross events planned to be held at the Tugaloo Mega Ramp in August sponsored by the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance.

Mr. Martin brought the group up to date on the broadband progress over the last 12 months. Recently, an award of \$950,000 has been granted by the Department of Community Affairs. Of this, \$800,000 is a grant and \$150,000 is a loan, for which the authority will not be obligated. We are now awaiting approval from DCA to send out RFP's. When proposals are received, they will be collected by Attorney Walter Gordon and will be evaluated by a committee.

Mr. Dye reported on their presentation at the State Project Managers meeting recently held in Atlanta. He offered copies of this presentation to anyone interested.

At this time, Mr. Jim Hussey from the office of Senator Saxby Chambliss was welcomed.

Chairman Cleveland invited guests to address the group if they desired.

Ms. Papa announced an upcoming Georgia Academy for Economic Developers. A flyer with information is attached.

Ms. Smith announced a veteran's career expo to be held in May and a flyer is attached with this information.

Ms. O'Rourke brought the group up to date on the port deepening in Savannah.

Mr. Hussey also commented on the port deepening project in Savannah.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Allen reported on the Development Authority Training (DAT) to be held at Currahee Campus on April 18. This is being co-sponsored by Georgia Power, Hart EMC and Sefarth Shaw Law Firm.

Mr. Dye reported that the South Carolina Economic Development Consultants Regional Tour has been cancelled for the present.

Mr. Dye also reported on the GEDA Spring Workshop to be held at Brasstown in May.

Chairman Cleveland appointed a nominating committee of Cam Parker, Vernon Cape and Vernon Edwards. They will report at the July meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**Pudge Smith
Recording Secretary**