

JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF
FRANKLIN, HART AND STEPHENS COUNTIES

Minutes of Meeting
July 25, 2011

The Joint Development Authority of Franklin, Hart and Stephens Counties met for the quarterly meeting on Monday July 25, 2011 at the City of Toccoa Fire Department Meeting Hall in Toccoa.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Cleveland at 6:00 pm. Other members present were Roy Crocker, Don Foster, Vernon Edwards, Bob Evans, Bill Leard, Ralph Owens, Dean Scarborough and Gerald Voyles. Also attending were Lyn Allen, Dwayne Dye and Tim Martin, Economic Developers, Jack Edmunds, Treasurer, Walter Gordon, Attorney and Pudge Smith, recording secretary. Tate O'Rourke, office of Senator Johnny Isakson and Gerald Turner, Work Ready were also present.

The invocation was given by Dwayne Dye.

Chairman Cleveland called for corrections or additions to the minutes of the April 25, 2011 meeting that had been provided by e-mail or mail. There being none, they were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Evans.

Mr. Edmunds presented a financial summary and asked for questions. On a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Foster, this report was accepted. Mr. Edmunds also presented the budget for fiscal year 2011 - 2012 and asked for questions. On a motion by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Parker, the budget was approved. A copy is attached and made a part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gerald Turner, coordinator for the Regional Work Ready Program and administrator for the \$350,000 six county grant, gave an update on this program. Mr. Dye also reported that the region is applying for a FDM grant.

Mr. Dye reported individually for Hart County Work Ready that a graduation rate of over 80% is projected.

Ms. Allen reported that Franklin County is working with manufacturers and needs two more to become recognized as a work ready community.

Mr. Martin reported that Stephens County anticipates a graduation rate of 85.4%.

Ms. Allen gave an update on the Tri-County Manufacturer's Meeting set for August 17 at the Currahec Campus of North Georgia Technical College.

Mr. Martin reported that each of the 13 counties in our area have submitted projects for TSPLOST.

Mr. Dye reported on the presentation our group made at the GEDA Spring Workshop recently held at St. Simons Island, GA. This authority was invited by OneGeorgia to take part on the program and was recognized for its accomplishments.

Ms. Allen updated the group on the Regional Medical Center stating that completion is scheduled for April 2012 and opening is set for June 2012 and they are on schedule to meet this time line.

Ms. Allen reported that the Lake Hartwell Marketing Alliance has several events scheduled. They continue to work with the University of Georgia and Clemson on a marketing plan. Plans are underway to have a 50 year celebration of Lake Hartwell and are working with the Corps of Engineers on this project.

Mr. Martin brought the group up to date on the broadband project. Consultants are holding interviews in each of the 7 counties regarding funding, and grants. He reported that money has begun to come in for the feasibility study.

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Mr. Martin reported on an addition to the Currahee Campus of North Georgia Technical College for health services and progress on the airport terminal with an anticipated opening date of October. He also reported on two new prospects that could mean 156 jobs and that the Currahee Club has new owners.

Ms. Allen reported that most existing industry is back to their 2008 capacity and that two companies are expanding meaning 112 jobs. Another is planning a \$6,000,000 expansion that would result in 10 – 15 new jobs. She reported that the spec building has been leased and that Franklin County's agricultural industry is number one in the state. She also reported that Emmanuel College is growing and has plans for a new dorm and gym.

Ms. O'Rourke reported that their office is working with Emmanuel College on a grant for the new dorm.

Mr. Dye reported on the expansions of TI Automotive and Ag Strong resulting in approximately 50 jobs between them. He said new prospects are mostly foreign inquiries.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Allen reported on the Good News Gathering sponsored by Georgia Power.

Mr. Cleveland shared the need to begin thinking of funding for the authority. While funds are adequate now, it is important to begin planning an approach to each county for future funding.

Mr. Cleveland reported that due to the fact funds had begun coming in for the feasibility study, bank accounts had been opened to accept these funds. On a motion by Mr. Scarborough and seconded by Mr. Evans, this action was ratified.

Mr. Evans, chairman of the nominating committee, proposed the following officers for 2012:

Chairman	Doug Cleveland
Vice Chairman	Cary Bennett
Secretary	Bill Leard
Treasurer	Jack Edmunds
Recording Secretary	Pudge Smith

Ms. O'Rourke reported briefly on the debt ceiling issue. She also offered their office support on legislative matters.

The next meeting will be held October 24, 2011 in Franklin County.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Pudge Smith
Recording Secretary