

Board Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2023
20 Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA

Attending: Brian Akin, David Austin, Lisa Lawson, Rick Phillips, Janney Sanders, Christian Hamilton, Stacy Miller, Julie Paysen, Jessica Waters, Fredda Wheeler, Brittany Ivey, Lois Hylton. Dennis Bell participated via teleconference.

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Phillips opened with prayer and Akin led the Pledge of Allegiance & read the confidentiality & conflict of interest statement.

Motion to approve the agenda, [Austin:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion to approve the November 29, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Motion to approve the November financials as presented, [Austin:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Board Action Items:

Akin recognized Austin and Bell for their tenure on the Board, and presented a plaque to Austin. Motion was made to authorize the purchase of a new vehicle for SCDA with a max allowance of \$65,000.00 and to use the current vehicle as a trade-in, [Phillips:Lawson] All in favor; none opposed.

Program Updates/Reports:

Attraction: Ivey gave the following updates. **Project Castle** still has not closed on their bond and might not until after the first of the year. **Project Hospitality** needs to provide the community with additional information before we offer a concrete incentives proposal. **Project Import** is new project and Ivey is working to find an existing building that will allow them to open a new business in town. **Project Jae** is operating in Toccoa. **Project Pharma** has secured their building.

Existing: Ivey shared that she will be meeting with Nifco KTW to discuss some future plans next week. Ivey made introductions to North Georgia Technical College's Adam Fulbright and several of our existing industries. Ivey took GDEcD's new Region 2 Existing Industry Rep, Brandon Lounsbury, to ASI and showed him around our community.

Product Development: Ivey shared that the lunch we provided the County's Road Department was well received. Ivey reported that we still need DCA to provide the median average wage we have to use for the lift station grant.

President's Report:

Existing Industry: Ivey shared that our next Industry Lunch & Learn is scheduled for January 31 and that Workforce Strategies Group will be speaking. Ivey is scheduling a day of industry visits for GDEcD & GDOL.

Workforce Development: Ivey shared that ASI in partnership with North GA Credit Union provided a Financial Literacy Class for their WBL students.

Recruit New Industry: Ivey shared that we have seen an uptick in interest from housing developers in our community.

Input from Others:

Hamilton thanked SCDA for the recent PILOT payment. Wheeler reminded everyone about retirement celebration for Austin & Tabor tomorrow at 2 p.m. Paysen shared the Pre-Legislative Coffee would be on January 4 & reported on the Christmas parade's success. The plan is for next year's parade to be on a week night as well.

Executive Session:

A motion was made at 8:45 a.m. to enter Executive Session for discussion of future acquisition, sale or lease of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4), [Phillips:Austin] All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:59a.m., [Austin:Phillips]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 a.m., [Phillips:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President