

Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024
20 Doyle Street, Toccoa, GA

Attending: Brian Akin, Gail Fry, Lisa Lawson, Tara Simmons, Terry Carter, Fredda Wheeler, Christian Hamilton, Stacy Miller, Julie Paysen, Jolie Strickland, Janney Sanders, Brittany Ivey & Ellen Spencer.

Chairman Brian Akin called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

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

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented [Simmons:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the September 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes, [Simmons:Fry]. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve the September financials as presented, [Fry:Lawson]. All in favor; none opposed.

Board Action Items: A motion was made to approve renewing a CD at SouthState Bank for 5 months with a 3.98% interest rate, [Simmons;Lawson] All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to approve SungEel's request to move the completion of construction of the project and commence commercially viable operations of the project to July 31, 2027 and begin Year 1 no later than 2028. [Lawson;Simmons], All in favor; none opposed.

Program Updates/Reports: Attraction: Project Bail is making progress and has collect 2 estimates to reopen pits. Project Beetle is a new prospect interested in an existing building. Project Bronze Sky is still a contender. State Project Manager states we are still in the running as a Georgia site. Project Castle management looking for housing options in Toccoa. Project Coolmint waiting until after election to make a decision. Project Lamar will be making a site visit at the end of October. Project Next working on environment issues but has the easement he needs. Project Pharma working on build out and contacting local contractors. Expected to be in operations middle of next year. Project Venture 2.0 working on parking issues. Project Wright waiting on finances to begin moving forward and still has not entered a lease agreement.

Existing: Jaymarz celebrated 20th anniversary. Meadowbrook Machine & Tool celebrated 39 years in business. PTL Equipment was awarded runner up for the 2024 Ellies Award of Best Family-Owned business. Sark Wire experienced setbacks from Hurricane Helene. Their upcast machine is down preventing them from producing their own copper rod. Ivey worked closely with Georgia Power & Sark to resolve issues as soon as possible. SCDA will continue to assist in helping ensure that machine gets back up and running and to explore possibly financial reimbursement from state or federal agencies. Product Development: No properties added to our inventory this month. Worked with Georgia Power to update existing properties and sites online. No bids have been received for HBBP hay bid proposal.

President's Report: Existing: First set of 8th grade industry tours completed. 23 students present with 4 industries visited and Talan Properties. Second round of tours to take place on 12/11. Brandon Lounsbury to visit local industries on 11/7.

Workforce Development: 2 WBL SOM have been recognized this year. Advancement Academy visits to continue. SCDA will be conducting a tour of NGTC later this month.

Recruit New Industry: Presented at the JDA annual update with over 25 State Project Managers present.

Input from Others: Paysen reminded attendees of Christmas parade to take place on 12/12. Strickland reported SCH received their Center of Excellence recertification in Total Joint for Knees and Hips in Orthopedics. SCH is now designated as a remote treatment Stroke Center. Hospital Gala to take place 10/26 at NGTC. Simmons reports record turnout for first day of early voting. New parking lot proving to be a success during voting season. Hamilton states it was a state record in early voting on the first day with over 200 absentee ballots already received. County is still working on updating planning & code ordinances. County has completed debris pickup from Helene. Commissioners to vote on landscape extension at next meeting. Wheeler states Harvest festival to take place 10/26-10/27. City gave approval for 21 duplexes to be built behind Owens Gym. Continuing to work with potential buyers of Save A Lot location on rezoning requests.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting following a Strategic Planning Session at 10:53 a.m., [Lawson;Fry] All in favor; none opposed.

Submitted By:

Attested By:

Brian Akin, Chairman

Brittany W. Ivey, President/CEO