

Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
November 9, 2022

Present

Ron Paulk, Chairman
Jason Dunn
Steve Taylor
Mark Turner
Hal Wiley
Jason Holt

Absent

Other

Kyle Cook
Christina Justice
Kathy Young
Melissa Dark

Chairman Ron Paulk called the November 9, 2022 meeting to order at 12:24 pm.

Minutes from the October 2022 meeting were reviewed. Steve Taylor made a motion to approve. Mark Turner seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Christina Justice presented the financials for October 2022. Hal Wiley made a motion to approve. Steve Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Executive Director Jason Dunn gave the following report:

- We are working with Wiregrass to develop a commercial driver's license training center. Through recent meetings we've gained support from Southern Ag Carriers. They have committed a letter of support and to hiring graduates of the program. They are working through the process of donating a semi & trailer to the program.
- FHSCCA is going through the process of being recertified.
- The Lippert expansion deal will be closing today.
- Choice Wood closed the sale to Pioneer Wood as an ongoing business. Pioneer Wood is a company out of Americus. They bought both the real estate and the business.
- We received notification that the grant for the truck staging area has been awarded. The regional commission will be facilitating that grant. The process of funding the project will hopefully begin in Q1 or Q2 of 2023.
- Polar Beverage Deal has been awarded GEDA Deal of the Year. We will travel to Atlanta on November 14th for the awards luncheon. Everyone is invited to attend.
- We have established a pilot agreement with Modern Dispersions. Target for completion is the end of the year. Raynor Company and Covered Wagon incentives will not be extended.
- Jason Dunn will be testifying before a State Senate Committee about the dangers of incentive abuses in development authorities.

- We received mechanical and electrical drawings for the Co-Op/Innovation Kitchen. We are currently pricing the building. Deeds are ready to be filed but we will wait a few more weeks to ensure that the building construction is 100% feasible.
- We've been selected to participate in the UGA Propel Program. The Propel Program provides training for community members to build a strategic plan on a few selected economic development initiatives. If you have recommendations on who you would like to be a part of this team please contact Jason.

Sirco Industrial survey is completed. They will buy the property with the condition that if they are unable to obtain the proper permitting then the Development Authority will buy back the property at the purchase price.

Hal Wiley made a motion to sell lot 7a and 7b to Sirco Industrial at \$25,000. Jason Holt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following his director's report, Jason Dunn gave a presentation on property taxes generated from local industries.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Dark