

**Fitzgerald and Ben Hill County Development Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
April 9th, 2025**

Present

Jason Dunn
Justin Smith
Hal Wiley
Lawton Tinley
Corey Gibbs
Jason Holt

Absent

Other

Kyle Cook
Hampton Raulerson
Christine Cook
Kathy Young

Chairman, Lawton Tinley called the April 9th, 2025 meeting to order at 12:23 pm. He opened the meeting with prayer.

12:18

Minutes- Hal Wiley made a motion to approve the minutes; Justin Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial report, presented by Kathy Young.

The board was presented with establishing a \$750K line of credit at Community Bank. Chairman Lawton Tinley and Secretary Melissa Dark will execute the bank documents.

Jason Dunn will be authorized to request a draw. Checks will require two signatures with Jason Dunn, Kathy Young, and/or Christina Justice having the authority to sign.

Motion - Justin second, chairman Lawton Tinley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jason Holt, Hal Wiley, and Corey Gibbs abstained from voting

Financial report approved- motion made by Hal Wiley and seconded by Corey Gibbs. The motion was carried unanimously.

Product Development/Property Acquisition/Building and Land

Peachtree Business Park - construction moving forward despite rain

The Forward Fitzgerald grad site sign has been installed.

Workforce Development

Forestry Lab is underway. The school system is putting additional funds toward that project.

State FLEX was a success.

Retainment/Recruitment/Existing Industry

Project Pringles will have another meeting in Fitzgerald in a few weeks and will have a more comprehensive list of needs and requests.

There was discussion about what other sites the project is looking at and if they are federal opportunity zones. No other South Georgia communities seem to be in a better position than us with natural gas infrastructure.

Closed the sale with TS Specialty Products.

MANA is moving forward with a new project. We will be selling approximately 95 acres. The land has some existing infrastructure that we previously installed. They have agreed to a price of- 650k and will close on or before July 1, 2025

This land will be used to build a shelling facility. We are expecting a capital investment of \$50 million with job numbers to be determined later.

Jason is super stoked.

Jason asked for a motion to proceed with that sale at 650k cash with Mana.

Hal Wiley made the motion, and Jason Holt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Justin Smith asked about the amount of land that the development authority currently owns. Jason shared that we've sold a lot in the last two years and he'd like to acquire about 100 acres of land in the future.

The Cottage Innovation Kitchen is coming along.

Other Business

On April 22nd Jason will be attending an industrial-scale solar meeting with the Georgia PSC and others. Jason will be representing South Georgia

Billboard concepts-

Jason showed the board a few concepts for a billboard and asked for input.

Justin Smith asked about the Suncrest Stone building. Jason is working with their real estate agent. The asking price on the building steep making it tough to market.

The next meeting of the FBHDA will be postponed because of a strategic planning session for the Chamber on May 14th.

The chairman gave closing remarks and thanked everyone for their work in the community.

Adjourn 1:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Dark