

Development Authority of Lumpkin County Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2011, 9am Administration Bldg Conference Room

Board Members in attendance: Chris Dockery (Chairman), Kathy Crafton, D. L. "Tinker" Head, J. B. Jones, Jimmy Anderson, John Gaston.

Associate Members/guests/others in attendance: Steve Gooch, Gary McCullough, John Raber, Dewey Moye, Jack Thompson, Joanne Taylor, Gerald Lewy, K. C. Horne, Dudley Owens, Amy Booker (late arrival)

Call to order: Chris called the meeting to order at 9:01

Agenda: Item number 7 to be discussed in Executive Session. Motion to approve agenda: J. B. Jones: Second: Tinker Head. Motion carried.

February 8, 2011 regular minutes: Motion to approve minutes: Kathy Crafton: Second: J. B. Jones. Motion carried.

Associate Members Reports

- Lumpkin County. Commissioner John Raber said there will be a meeting of the Joint Economic Development Authority Monday, March 21, 2011 at 7pm. (Chris reminded all the Joint Economic Development group is a committee not an authority). The deadline for making requests for House Bill 277 is March 31, 2011. Commissioner Raber remarked that he knew of two major industries interested in Lumpkin County and he would talk to Steve about later.
- City of Dahlonega. Mayor Gary McCullough reported that the city was doing well with bed tax up and tourism strong. Steven Smith has resigned and the city will be advertising to fill the position of Tourism Director soon. Concern over the proposal to terminate the ad valorem tax on car tags in favor of sales tax on vehicle sales. He stated that in five years the plan would result in lost revenue. Carbon treatments are in process at new water plant and have been successful in reducing odor in water.
- Lumpkin County Schools. Superintendent Dewey Moye reported Koyo will be using Lumpkin County School facilities for their training. Advertising will begin soon for available Lanier Tech classes in Dahlonega. LCHS proudly announces 100% graduation rate for JROTC program. Concerned over proposed property value reassessments as budget has already been cut dramatically.
- Dahlonega/Lumpkin County Chamber. President Amy Booker gave an update on current events and programs in process. Young Professionals group organizing a youth leadership program. Working toward a gateway at end of 400 to capture travelers and direct them to Dahlonega. Working with Mark French to find grant funds.
- Steve introduced Dee Harris as new part-time employee. Working to organize office.

Financial reports

- Monthly financials. In absence of Treasurer Don Trice, members reviewed financial statements. Chris questioned a GL entry for check written to Lumpkin BOC. Steve indicated he would get the information from accounting firm for that item and update members on the nature of the expense. Steve plans take some bookkeeping tasks in house to reduce amount paid to account firm. Motion to accept financial statement: Kathy. Second: Jimmy. Motion carried.

Audit Contract

- Steve said three companies were reviewed by himself, Don and Chris. Rushton and Company is the company recommended to provide audit services under a three year contract. Chris pointed out the Rushton and Company contract pricing is very clear and will prevent a repeat of the unexpected charges that occurred previously. John asked if there was an exit strategy or would the contract have to be paid out. Steve deferred to K.C. Horne who stated that while he had not had an opportunity to review the contract the generally local firms are willing to terminate for cause without penalty. Steve stated that it is not cost effective to hire a new audit firm every year nor is it good policy to keep the same firm exclusively. Three years is generally a good term. Motion to accept Rushton and Company contract for audit services: Tinker. Second: John. Motion carried.

Siemens Building-

Motion to amend agenda to move item number eight to between items numbered ten and eleven to discuss in executive session: Kathy. Second: JB. Motion carried.

Koyo Update

- Steve reported that no official word has been received but Koyo staff has been briefed and expectations are that expansion of Dahlonga plant is still to happen. Under the circumstances of the catastrophic events in Japan the expected press release would be inappropriate. Until such time as an official press release has been issued it is not to be discussed in public. JB took the opportunity to commend Steve for the manner in which he had conducted himself with Koyo stating that he had received many positive comments. Steve stated that Koyo indicated they will still need DALC financial assistance and he encouraged them to make their needs known as soon as possible.

Member questioned Steve about interest in Fieldale building. Steve stated that there was nothing new. There was still some interest but will need some DOT adjustments to right of way and entrance.

Chris noted letter to the Department of Community Health on behalf of the DALC in support of the hospital's expansion of the geriatric ward.

Office Relocation

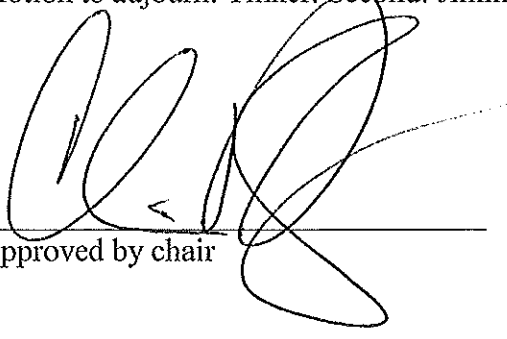
- Steve reported that the DALC office will be moving to Annex A. Maintenance and renovations need to be completed. Steve said he can arrange for inmate labor but will need to find funds for materials. Issues such as the roof condition are BOC responsibility. Dudley said he has security issues and space needs reconfiguring to provide best use for both LCWA and DALC. SPLOST money was allocated for the repairs and remodel. Steve and Dudley to work on plans and estimates to present to BOC for funding.

Motion to adjourn at 10:05am to Executive Session: JB. Second: John.

General discussion among members regarding the need to upgrade DALC computers and equipment. Needs to be assessed once move to Annex A is complete.

Motion to adjourn: Tinker. Second: Jimmy. Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

Approved by chair

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink is written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and loops around itself. Below the signature, the text "Approved by chair" is printed.