

WHITE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, January 10th, 2023
PLACE: BOC Board Room
1235 Helen Highway
Cleveland, GA, 30528
TIME: 4:30 PM

Board members present were Michael Yarbrough, Mike Meuse, John Ziemer, Don Allison, Joe Whelchel, and Ridley Kinsey. Guests present were John Sell, Beth Truelove, Jodi Ligon, and Mercedes Dodd.

Chairman Yarbrough called the meeting to order and confirmed the quorum. No changes made to the agenda.

Motion to approve minutes of November 1st, 2022 and November 8th, 2022 made by Mr. Ziemer and seconded by Mr. Kinsey. Motion was unanimous.

Ms. Ligon presented the financial report. Motion to approve the financials made by Mr. Kinsey and seconded by Mr. Meuse. Motion was unanimous.

Chairman Yarbrough opened the floor to discuss next steps with the strategic plan. Mr. Sell explained the Board of Commissioners plan to meet in late February or March to discuss investment goals, structure standpoint, and resource/funding allocation. The board members expressed interest in attending this meeting and felt they should be represented in the discussion, so Mr. Sell said he would speak to the county manager to request they be present.

The board talked through the different elements of the plan and explained how feasible certain aspects of the plan would be for short-term versus long-term and what would be involved for each. Ms. Truelove pointed out that some of the data used in this strategic plan by Thomas and Hutton is being utilized in current plans in the City of Cleveland. She suggested the board members branch out to other authorities and commissions to see where this board could lend support.

The board discussed immediate next actions that could be done to start implementation of the strategic plan. These actions included attending the Cleveland and Helen's separate development authority meetings, drafting a job description for a project manager role to present to the Board of Commissioners, drafting letters to donors that contributed to the strategic plan, and distributing the strategic plan to parties that would be involved or that are already working toward similar projects.

Mr. Sell did not have an Economic Development/County or Joint Development Authority update.

Ms. Truelove provided an update for the White County Chamber of Commerce. She explained the Chamber has already shared the strategic plan with some stakeholders and provided updates on ongoing projects at the Chamber including the Talent Pipeline System and Workforce Development that is supply-chain approached for skill-based workers. She also informed the

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board that City of Cleveland passed its short-term rental ordinance, which should help alleviate some of the county areas that are seeing an influx of them.

Mr. Ziemer provided an update for the White County Water Authority, including how the freezing temperatures resulted in low water due to multiple water leaks. Mr. Ziemer said it was partly due to homes that are not full-time occupied, which made it more difficult to locate the sources of leaks. He also stated the development of the second well has been stopped due to contract issues.

The board set the next Regular Meeting for March 14th, 2023 at 4:30pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Ziemer and seconded by Mr. Kinsey. Motion was unanimous.