

VALLEY PARTNERSHIP JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
May 30, 2019 BOARD MINUTES

PRESENT: Debby Ford, Monte Galbraith, Walker Garrett, Ron Hinze, Slade Johnson, Gary Jones, David Jordan, Tom Zwaga

ALSO PRESENT: John Asbell, COL Clint Cox, Tom Horn, Anna Hurt, Sendreka Lakes, Jim Livingston, COL Matt Scalia, Lauren Sibilgia, Deputy Garrison Commander Chris Ferris, Katherine Kelly

Ron Hinze, Chairman, called the May 30, 2019 meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves.

MINUTES:

Upon motion made by Gary Jones and seconded by Tom Zwaga, the January 17, 2019 minutes and March 19, 2019 Annual Meeting notes were adopted as presented and attached as Exhibit A.

FINANCES:

David Jordan reviewed the Financial Reports – Checking Account 2019 and Dues Income which are attached as Exhibit B. All contract fees are current. **Upon motion made by Monte Galbraith and seconded by Tom Zwaga, the Financial Reports were accepted as presented.**

REGIONAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE

Tom Horn distributed a handout about rural broadband. He had attended a meeting about this and talked about the Community Reinvestment Act. The document presented facts about this Act and USDA Rural E-connectivity programs and described various types of funding. It is critical to have connectivity to see growth in communities. Jim Livingston reported on the status. It is very expensive so is difficult to have connectivity in rural areas. Lauren Sibilgia made comments on the connectivity activities in Vermont. Discussion took place about how no or little connectivity affects communities. People do not want to buy homes which are not connected. The State is working on a map of underserved areas. Investments would be in local government and not directly to providers. Valley Partnership needs to assess region and identify several areas to concentrate on.

STAFF ACTIVITIES REPORTS

- Workforce – Sendreka Lakes reported that Columbus 2025 will kick off The Basics. She explained the five basic areas. She reported on the PIE Award. In July there will be a 2 part Career Fair with the Georgia DOL. Conversations also taking place with US Chamber Foundation on military spouse employment.
- Economic Development – Brian Sillitto spoke about a company which made a decision to expand at home reservations based on broadband connectivity. He gave an update on the development of MTP with a pad ready site. Some mulching is also being done so prospects can see the topography. He will send out the specs for a prospect to see if one of the members has anything available.
- Military – Gary Jones reported for the task force on strategy about what the Valley Partnership should look like. He gave some history. Board now wants a new focus on project management and strategic initiatives. He spoke about the labor shed and targeted industries. Goal is to determine what to target and what to support. There needs to be an inventory of what is available in counties and city. Task force wanted to redesign logo. He presented a timetable of what should be happening during the year. They want ideas to populate the Valley Partnership website. Enhancing community development will help create economic development.
- Comments were made by Ron Hinze about some of the changes which have occurred since beginning. Slade Johnson reported on the assistance received from Brian Sillitto

- on a prospect. Each county is different and needs to be clear as to what is needed. Brian Sillitto gave an update on the website with changes suggested earlier. He spoke about some visual changes which can be made and links which can be linked. He stated that members need to provide stories to be included. Question and answers took place about website. He talked about leads forensics. If you have information or suggestions, you need to communicate those to staff.
- COL Cox reported on the waste energy project. The goal of 20 thousand tons organic materials was reached. It is expandable. He reported that 20% growth is expected between now and 2021. He talked about the one unit station training which is now 22 weeks. Post housing is full. He reported that a wildlife preserve was opened in Marion County.

VPJDA BOARD CONCLUSION:

Old Business - none

New Business – Dates of meetings attached as Exhibit C

There being no further business, the Joint Authority was adjourned.

Approved by:

Ron Hinze, 2019 Chair

Brian Sillitto, Assistant Secretary