***Laurens County Development Corporation***

Board Meeting – **Minutes**

Tuesday – March 15, 2016

Attendees:

Greg Alexander, Stan Bryson, Mayor John Carter, Randy Garrett, Ernie Segars, Frank Stovall, Dr. Billy Strickland, John Young, and Collie Lehn

Guests:

John Lummus (Upstate SC Alliance), Garrett McDaniel & Stewart Jones (County Council), Marvin Moss (CEDC), Brad Sanderson & John Culbreath (Thomas & Hutton)

Staff:

Jon Coleman, Lynn Finley, Sandy Cruickshanks

Press:

Vic MacDonald (Chronicle), Emil Finley (WLBG)

Chairman Bryson called the meeting to order at 12:03 and gave the invocation.

*Minutes and Financials*

Chairman Bryson stated that he could not call for a vote on the agenda and minutes because quorum was not met with board members in attendance.

Lynn Finley provided a recap of expenses for January and February. With no questions or comments, the financials were accepted as information only.

*Special Presentation*

Chairman Bryson recognized Mr. Ernie Segars for his upcoming retirement as Laurens County Administrator and presented him with a gift from the LCDC Board and staff. His commitment and support throughout the years has been very much appreciated.

*Executive Director’s Report – Jonathan Coleman:*

* Mr. Coleman reported that the overall project activity has been slightly slower than last year but it seems to be a common occurrence across the state.
* One of the new sites recommended in a site selection study conducted about a year ago has been chosen by Duke Energy to go through their Site Readiness Program.
* The Southern Economic Developers Council Site Selectors Round Table will meet in two weeks in Atlanta and Mr. Coleman plans to attend.
* The LCDC presented the newly designed print ad and new web address of [www.GrowLaurensCounty.com](http://www.GrowLaurensCounty.com). Staff email addresses will also utilize the new domain but the old addresses will continue to work and forward to the correct boxes. The website has also been converted to a responsive design which makes it more usable on mobile devices.
* The annual golf tournament is on for March 24 with a full field and is expected to be a great networking event.
* Everyone was given a new LCDC Logo lapel pin to wear and show support.

*Thomas & Hutton Volvo Presentation – Brad Sanderson and John Culbreath:*

Thomas & Hutton has played a large role in Laurens County assisting with many different projects. They also have been heavily involved in the site work for the new Volvo plant in Berkley County. Mr. Culbreath and Mr. Sanderson presented an overview of the Volvo project to the group. Their presentation showed photos of current work on site and layouts of the location with the impact to the area. They also covered the process of winning the project for SC and how clear communication, planning, and community partnerships played such a critical role in the success. The investment commitment was $500 million and 2,000 jobs.

*Other Reports:*

John Lummus with SC Upstate Alliance gave a brief report on a recent Scandinavian Automotive Suppliers group of 25 companies touring the upstate. He feels that Laurens County is positioned very well to take advantage of Tier 2 and Tier 3 suppliers needing to locate near their customers. These companies typically need to move quickly so it’s helpful to have buildings and pad sites at the ready. Their annual meeting is coming up on March 23.

*Executive Session:*

None

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn S. Finley