



## Development Authority of Washington County Initiates Search For New Executive Director

*(For Immediate Release – April 2017)* The Development Authority of Washington County has taken the first steps to initiate a search for a new Executive Director. The move comes after Charles Lee announced his retirement plans earlier this year. The Chason Group, Inc., an executive search firm specializing in the economic development field, has been selected to coordinate the search.

Candidates seeking the position should hold a minimum of three years' experience in the economic and/or community development field(s) or a closely related area; a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or equivalent experience; and possess the skills to establish and maintain effective working relationships with people and organizations. Other attributes the Development Authority will be looking for in candidates include marketing experience, communication skills – written, verbal, and listening, and proven leadership skills.

Stakeholder interviews have been conducted in the last several weeks with elected and appointed officials, existing industry leaders, education representatives, and economic development professionals on the regional and state levels regarding the character traits needed for the new Executive Director.

A detailed application will be provided to the most qualified candidates by The Chason Group prior to interviews with the members of the Development Authority. Three to five candidates are typically chosen for interviews. The search process takes 90 to 120 days.

"Charles has moved the economic development efforts of our community forward over the last six years," according to Mike Sheppard, chair of the Development Authority. "We have two Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development (GRAD) sites in place; a new marketing program that includes quality printed materials; and a developer-friendly website ([www.washingtondev.com](http://www.washingtondev.com)). These, along with an extremely positive working relationship with our local government leaders, are great building blocks for the next professional to stand on."

Lee joined the Development Authority in September of 2011. He currently works closely with members of the Development Authority, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, the cities of Sandersville and Tennille, and the other communities within the county to ensure that Washington County is poised for growth by soliciting new business and industrial development and by encouraging and undergirding the expansion of existing business and industry.

"We are ready to move to the next phase in our progressive approach to creating new jobs and maintaining existing ones in Washington County," according to Sheppard. "Our goal is to increase the tax base of the community through the addition and expansion of business. The authority has been very focused on putting this strategy in place for the past few years."

Other members of the Development Authority include: Carl Cummings, Andra' Jenkins, Ron May, Trey Sheppard, Ben Tarbutton, III, and Aubin Willis.

More information about The Chason Group can be found at [www.thechasongroup.com](http://www.thechasongroup.com).