

At 7:48 p.m., the Board convened closed session in order to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease, pursuant to [N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(5)(i)]. Commissioners Frye, Kemp, Lanier, Haywood and Allen were present. Also present were County Manager Hal Johnson; Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Will Massie; County Attorney Ben Morgan; Associate County Attorney Aimee Scotton; Clerk to the Board Amanda Varner; and Public Works Director Paxton Arthurs.

County Manager Hal Johnson stated that the contracted architecture, interior design, engineering and planning firm of Moser Mayer Phoenix Associates had completed the Courthouse renovation study and would report their findings at the February meeting of the Commissioners. They had determined there is not enough space to meet the needs of the Court System and didn't find a better way to reconfigure any floor to gain any office space.

He said that the 15,000 square feet building located at 1615 S Fayetteville St, Asheboro, formerly Southern Wholesale, could be on the market for purchase in the near future and that it could alleviate the overcrowding that is being experienced at the new Courthouse for many years to come. Mr. Johnson said it could house the court's probation and parole officers, as well as, the County's Day Reporting Center.

Public Works Director Paxton Arthurs said based on the property's tax value of \$567,227, cost to the County would be \$23 per square foot. He said a construction addition to the Courthouse would be over \$100 per square foot.

Mr. Johnson stated that Maintenance Director James Chriscoe had been in the building and said it is built on a concrete slab and the interior is open with a line of support poles in the middle, but that no additional surveying of the building or its utilities had been conducted. Mr. Arthurs said the current open construction makes it easier to do renovations.

Commissioner Kemp asked if the property had been listed with an agent to sell. Mr. Johnson said to his knowledge it had not been yet. Finance Officer Will Massie said the owner may be more willing to sell without having the expense of fees of an agent and it would also benefit the County.

After discussion, the consensus of the Board was to have the County Manager contact the property owner to see if there is interest in selling the property and if so, to have Mr. Arthurs and Mr. Chriscoe conduct an assessment of the condition of the property and then advise the Board on the findings.

At 8:13 p.m., closed session ended on this topic.

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Darrell L. Frye, Chairman

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Phil Kemp

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Arnold Lanier

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Stan Haywood

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David Allen

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Amanda Varner, Clerk to the Board