

Closed Session II (Project FPE) — November 1, 2010

At 5:10 p.m., the Board, already in closed session on another matter, began discussion on a different matter relating to the location or expansion of business in the area, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioners Holmes, Frye, Kemp, Lanier and Haywood were present. Also present were County Manager Richard Wells; Will Massie, Finance Officer; Darren Allen, County Attorney; Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney; Cheryl Ivey, Clerk to the Board; and Bonnie Renfro from Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Bonnie Renfro, EDC President, updated the Board on FPE's (Florida Production Engineering) plans to relocate to part of the former Moll Industries facility north of Seagrove, NC. The company would establish a new operation in one of three facilities and employ up to 96 of the displaced workers caused by Moll's bankruptcy and closure.

FPE is a division of Ernie Green Industries (EGI). Established in 1987, EGI is a full service contract manufacturing company with six North American operations in Ohio, Michigan, Canada, and Florida. EGI is a minority business entity with injection molding, finishing, metal stamping and printing, and technical services. EGI customers are in automotive, medical, aerospace, and consumer products. The company wishes to acquire machinery and equipment from the liquidator that was the successful bidder for the Moll equipment holdings: Highland Capital Equity firm, which would lease one of the buildings to EGI. EGI plans to purchase the Moll facilities and site, contingent upon the success of the new Seagrove operation. Ms. Renfro said that EGI has purchased many companies over the years and retained all of them in their existing locations. Their intent will be a long-term successful operation in North Carolina.

Ms. Renfro said that Moll employed 109 at the time of the plant closing warning letter issued August 13, 2010. Moll's final day of production was September 30, 2010. The liquidator plans the strip the buildings of all removable infrastructure and all equipment if no buyer or tenant is found immediately. FPE has requested any available assistance from state and local governments to support the acquisition and expansion.

Ms. Renfro presented the proposed incentive:

State of NC	\$80,000 – One NC Fund Grant (requires local match)
Randolph County:	\$80,000 paid over 3 years based on job creation and investment Year 1 -- \$20,000; Year 2 -- \$20,000; Year 3 -- \$40,000

The consensus of the Board was to offer the proposed incentive to FPE in order to re-employ the displaced workers from Moll and to insure that the former Moll facilities do not deteriorate due to the unusability of the stripped buildings. The Board directed the Clerk to publish notice of public hearing for 5:00 p.m. on November 16, 2010, to hear public comment on the project and to consider the incentive following the public hearing.

At 5:22 p.m., closed session ended on this topic.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Stan Haywood

Arnold Lanier

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board