

Closed Session II (Project Liberty) —January 7, 2013

At 7:57 p.m., the Board, already in closed session on another matter, began closed session 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, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer; Ben Morgan, County Attorney; Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney; Cheryl Ivey, Clerk to the Board; and Bonnie Renfro, Randolph County EDC President.

Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Will Massie reported that former Governor Perdue, in her final days in office, decided that the \$5 Million grant from the Department of Commerce that the State had set aside in its budget for Randolph County to utilize for the Liberty mega site, should not go to Randolph County alone. Rather, requests for proposals were distributed to 11 local governments seeking their applications for a portion of the grant. Seven governments responded with their applications and three were awarded with equal \$1,666,666 grants. Randolph County was one of the recipients. Mr. Massie said that no matching funds from the County are required. The grant is to be used for site development at the Liberty mega site.

County Manager Richard Wells said that 637 acres of land located at the proposed Liberty mega site has been offered to ALPATH LLC (the limited partnership formed to oversee the development of the Liberty mega site) for \$5.9 Million. The owner of the 637 acres, Dexter Blakely, is eager to sell and has offered a contract on the property with a \$30,000 non-refundable deposit in which the acreage would be held for 12 months. Mr. Wells said that in addition, another 98.9 acres adjoining the Blakely property to the north, owned by Nancy Lindley and Ferment Lindley, is also available for \$315,000. Mr. Wells recommended using the \$1,666,666 grant to purchase the 98.9 acres and to make a deposit on the 637 acres as soon as possible. Mr. Wells said that he planned to meet with attorney David Joseph, who is a member of ALPATH, on Wednesday. Mr. Joseph has been heavily involved with negotiations of land acquisition for the mega site. After meeting with Mr. Joseph, Mr. Wells said that he would also meet with H.R. Gallimore, who has also been working on the project with Mr. Joseph, in order to proceed with the purchase of the properties, if agreeable with the Board.

The Board authorized Mr. Wells to proceed with these meetings and to report back to them.

*At 8:13 p.m., on motion of Frye, seconded by Haywood, the Board voted unanimously to end closed session.*

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J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

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Darrell L. Frye

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Phil Kemp

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Stan Haywood

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Arnold Lanier

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Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board