

Closed Session I – July 10, 2006

At 5:27 p.m., the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4). Commissioners Holmes, Kemp, Frye, Lanier and Davis were present, as well as County Manager Richard Wells; County Attorney Alan Pugh; Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney; Cheryl Ivey, Clerk to the Board; David Townsend, III, County Public Works Director; and Bonnie Renfro from Randolph County Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Bonnie Renfro announced that a company is seeking a site for an east coast operation for a case goods furniture manufacturing operation and is interested in a 60-acre site at the Liberty Business Park. The projected investment is \$20 million (building), \$25 million (machinery and equipment), and \$2 million (furniture and fixtures). The company projects 886 to 896 new jobs over three years (68% unskilled). Key factors include availability and cost of labor, location and transportation infrastructure and ability to obtain an air quality permit. The average starting wage (all jobs) is \$10.75 - \$11.00 per hour. The company will provide health care benefits, paying at least 50% of the employee premium cost. They desire to use a Latino workforce, when possible.

The company would require water and sewer extension from the developed area of the Liberty Business Park at an estimated cost of \$325,000. The project qualifies for an NC Rural Center Grant for 50% of the cost. They would also require road extension across the rail track at the Liberty Business Park at an estimated cost of \$450,000. NC DOT would assist with all or most of this cost.

The company CFO has requested consideration for economic incentives related to property tax revenues. The estimated economic impact of the project is \$100 million per annum, according to the CFO.

Upon consensus, the Board declined to offer any incentives package to this company at this time.

Closed session on this topic ended at 5:35 p.m.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye, Vice Chairman

Phil Kemp

Robert B. Davis

Arnold Lanier

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board