

Closed Session I (Brookline Furniture) — February 3, 2014

At 7:50 p.m., the Board convened closed session on a 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; County Attorney Ben Morgan; Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney; Cheryl Ivey, Clerk to the Board; and Bonnie Renfro, Randolph County EDC President.

Bonnie Renfro stated that Brookline Furniture is a 27-year-old contract furniture company that plans to relocate from High Point to Archdale. Projected investment is \$2,250,000 to purchase and renovate a vacant building and \$225,000 - \$250,000 in new equipment. Eleven new jobs are promised and seventy-two jobs will be relocated. The company offers a full range of benefits, including 401K, life, disability and dental insurance, and 75% of the employees' health care premiums. The average wage is \$29,894 (varies by position).

Ms. Renfro said that the company plans to purchase and relocate to a vacant 102-000 sq. ft. building (formerly occupied by Woodmark, Dar/Ran and Foleys) in the Archdale Industrial Park. The building, which has been vacant for 16 months, needs repairs at an estimated cost of \$252,000 to make it reusable for their needs.

The company has requested assistance from the Building Reuse Grant Program. If approved, the grant would fund up to \$110,000 based on 11 new jobs. The grant requires that a unit of local government make the application and administer the project, and agreeing to a 5% match or \$5,500. Ms. Renfro said that the City Archdale will apply for the grant and she recommended that the City of Archdale and the County split the match at \$2,750 each. The application is due to the NC Department of Commerce by February 14, 2014. Ms. Renfro reported that Archdale has scheduled a special called meeting for this project on February 11.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to provide a \$2,750 match to the City of Archdale for the Building Reuse Grant. The Chairman directed the Clerk to schedule a public hearing on the matter at their March 10th meeting.

At 8:00 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