

Closed Session I (United Furniture) – February 6, 2006

At 6:00 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 Frank Willis; Cheryl Ivey, Deputy Clerk to the Board; Alan Pugh, County Attorney; Aimee Scotton, Associate County Attorney; Richard Wells, County Manager in Transition; Will Massie, Assistant County Manager; and Bonnie Renfro, Executive Director, Randolph County Economic Development Corporation.

Bonnie Renfro said that United Furniture is a Mississippi-based upholstered furniture company that first expanded to North Carolina in 2002. They have grown their operation here to include 2 sites: one in Randolph County employing 183 people and one in High Point employing 37 people. They are out of capacity and wish to consolidate and expand to the former Confluence facility. They plan a \$5-5½ million investment, which would include a 60,000 sq. ft. addition to the existing facility, and they propose 83 new jobs, while retaining their existing 220 employees. The company would continue to operate 4 plants in Mississippi and 1 in Alabama at current levels but would expand their North Carolina operation.

Purchase of the Confluence facility is contingent on sewer extension estimated at \$1 million. Engineering and design work is already complete from a previous project. The company is also working to resolve an on-site environmental issue (contamination from Cone Mills, a previous owner that has filed Chapter 7). The contract for purchase will be extended for up to 6 months.

Ms. Renfro suggested the County and the City of Archdale divide a \$250,000 grant match equally.

The Board directed Ms. Renfro to keep them updated on this project.

Closed session on this topic ended at 6:15 p.m.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Robert B. Davis

Arnold Lanier

Cheryl A. Ivey, Deputy Clerk