

**GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2015**

The Gates County Board of Commissioners met in an Emergency Session at 3:30 p.m. Monday, February 16, 2015 in the Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 112 Court Street, Gatesville. Commissioners Hofler, Owens, Jordan, Felton and Freeman were present.

Chairman Hofler called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 a (4) Economic Development, (5) Real Estate, (6) Personnel. Commissioner Felton seconded the motion; motion passed without opposition.

Commissioner Owens made a motion to exit closed session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion carried without opposition.

Commissioner Freeman made a motion to authorize the County Manager and the County Attorney to proceed with investigating all options as discussed in closed session. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Owens made a motion that we authorize the County Manager to make appropriate notifications to delay the March 4th public hearing to purchase land as discussed in closed session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Felton made a motion to back away from all efforts to purchase products from Briarwood Forest Products. Commissioner Freeman wanted to ask a question, Chairman Hofler stated that a second needed to be made for discussion. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Freeman asked if the correct wording is all products as this could limit us in the future for services that aren't land related. Commissioner Owens stated the future is unseen and we don't want to limit the County in dealings with any business or individual.

Commissioner Felton amended his motion to stop all current efforts of purchasing property from Briarwood Forest Products for the purpose of establishing a spray field. Commissioner Freeman seconded the amended motion.

Commissioner Freeman explained that it is important to keep in mind the location of the land; it is by the County Library, a rest home and a credit union.

Commissioner Owens stated in a matter of the unknown, the fact that the motion has been made is noted in the minutes, and the opinion has been voiced he would like to ask his colleague to withdraw the motion so to not disable the County in the unknown future.

Commissioner Felton stated he understands why Commissioner Owens is asking that the motion be withdrawn but it is a motion he has wanted to make for six months and will keep it on the table.

Chairman Hofler called for a vote on the motion to stop all current efforts of purchasing property from Briarwood Forest Products for the purpose of establishing a spray field which was seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Commissioners Freeman, Felton and Hofler voted in favor, Commissioners Owens and Jordan voted against. The motion passed three to two.

County Manager, Natalie Rountree, asked that the Board clarify, now that a new motion has passed, what she should communicate to Mr. Carey. Are we delaying the public hearing or are we communicating that we are stopping all efforts of moving forward with purchasing.

Commissioner Felton explained intellectually he knows that the right thing to do is to back away from the project and dealings with Briarwood but he doesn't want the Board to be divided or to cause issues between members.

County Attorney Godwin suggested leaving the first two motions as is and rescinding the last motion.

Commissioner Felton stated since it is on record that the motion was made and it did pass by a majority he would like to make a motion to rescind his previous motion to stop all current efforts of purchasing property from Briarwood Forest Products for the purpose of establishing a spray field. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Felton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.


Linda Hofler, Chairman


Melissa C. Lawrence, Clerk

GATES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
