

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BRIEFING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2002**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Briefing Session on Tuesday, February 5, 2002, at 5:00 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center (South Wing Conference Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present: Chairman Sara Haire Tice  
Vice Chairman Karen B. Ray  
Tommy E. Bowles  
Steve D. Johnson  
R. Godfrey Williams

Staff Present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, Support Services Director Jim Vernon, Planning Supervisor Ron Smith, Inspections/Code Enforcement Director Lynn Niblock, Chief Deputy Rick Dowdle with the Sheriff's Department, Fire Marshal Chuck Gallyon, Library Director Steve Messick, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Tice.

**UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN OBTAINING PROPERTY LOCATED OFF TURNERSBURG HIGHWAY (former prison unit) TO BE USED FOR ADDITIONAL JAIL SPACE:** Chief Deputy Rick Dowdle said there continued to be a growing need to find space to house inmates. He said the jail had 250 inmates this weekend and there were 222 confined at the facility today. Dowdle said he was continuing with discussions with the Department of Corrections about utilizing the former prison site.

Support Services Director Jim Vernon said the major drawback with the prison site was the lack of a septic treatment system. Vernon said the health environmental supervisor was doing an analysis on what was needed. Mr. Vernon said that if a local septic system was designed, the site could house 40-50 inmates. Vernon noted there would be some costs -- minimum of \$125,000.

Dowdle said he could possibly house 92 inmates at the site, but not with the present sewer situation. Chief Dowdle said his discussions with the Department of Transportation representatives revealed that they would probably attach a sewer line to the I-77 bridge -- they wouldn't bore under the interstate. He added that in time, the prison property was supposed to revert over to the Department of Transportation.

**REQUEST FOR A DISCUSSION/DECISION REGARDING THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM FOR THE NEW IREDELL COUNTY LIBRARY:** On January 12, 2002, the board members visited a library designed by Craig Gaulden Davis in Lexington, SC. On January 26, 2002, the board members visited a library in Hickory, NC, designed by Calloway Johnson Moore West.

County Manager Mashburn said there was \$2.8 million in the capital reserve fund. He said there were adequate funds for the design work.

Chairman Tice said she wanted a library building that had character -- something that could be a focal point for the county.

Mashburn said the board needed to choose an architectural firm. He said then, the chosen firm would have to submit a fee amount.

Library Director Messick, County Manager Mashburn, and Commissioner Johnson, said they were most satisfied with the Craig Gaulden Davis firm.

It was the consensus of the board to allow the staff to negotiate a contract with Craig Gaulden Davis.

**REQUEST FROM FIFTH STREET MINISTRIES FOR THE DONATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1419 BOULEVARD STREET, STATESVILLE, NC (FORMER DETOX FACILITY):** Mr. Mashburn said he had been approached by a representative of Fifth Street Ministries about the donation of the former detox facility located on Boulevard Street. Mashburn said the house had been leased to Fifth Street since 1998. The Fifth Street representative said many repairs had been made, and this was why the request had been submitted.

It was the consensus of the board and manager to place the request on an upcoming agenda for continued review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Tice adjourned the briefing session at 6:45 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Clerk to the Board