

**IREDELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BRIEFING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2005**

The Iredell County Board of Commissioners met in Briefing Session on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, at 5:00 p.m., in the Iredell County Government Center (South Wing Conference Room), 200 South Center Street, Statesville, NC.

Present were:

Chairman Sara Haire Tice
Vice Chairman Godfrey Williams
Steve D. Johnson
Marvin Norman
Ken Robertson

Staff present: County Manager Joel Mashburn, Finance Director Susan Blumenstein, Code Enforcement and Planning Director Lynn Niblock, Tax Administrator Bill Doolittle, Emergency Services Director Tracy Jackson, and Clerk to the Board Jean Moore.

CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Tice.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FORT DOBBS ALLIANCE'S REQUEST FOR A FINANCIAL LOAN OF \$30,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF 16 ACRES OF PROPERTY: County Manager Mashburn said much confusion had arisen out of the Fort Dobbs Alliance request. (Fort Dobbs Site Manager Beth Carter had requested to be placed on the January 18, 2005 agenda, but later, after the agendas had been prepared and mailed out to the press and sunshine list members, she asked to delay the request until the February 1 meeting. Later, representatives of the Alliance requested for the matter to be heard at the January 18 meeting, due to a grant submission deadline of January 28, 2005. Also, the initial request, as explained to the county manager as being a loan of \$30,000 was not what the Fort Dobbs representatives were actually seeking. Instead, they desired a \$45,000 donation to be used on an option to purchase 16 acres of property.

Commissioner Norman said he didn't feel comfortable making a decision about the request at the January 18 meeting, due to the residents in the Fort Dobbs area being told the matter had been deleted from the agenda.

Commissioner Williams said he didn't feel comfortable making a decision until a public hearing could be held allowing everyone in the Fort Dobbs community to voice their opinions about the matter.

Commissioner Johnson said there was much opposition to the proposed expansion of the Fort Dobbs facility.

Commissioner Robertson asked what the county would be getting if the \$45,000 request were approved. Robertson said a conversation with N.C. House Representative Karen Ray had revealed that N.C. House Speaker Morgan had approved some funding for Fort Dobbs.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Tice adjourned the briefing session at 5:55 p.m.

Approval: _____

Clerk to the Board