



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 9

DATE OF MEETING: May 5, 2014

REQUESTED BY: Mike Taylor, Library Director

SHORT TITLE: Request to Designate and Reserve the Northwest Portion of the Property of the New Pender County Hampstead Annex (old Topsail High School) for the Future Site of the Topsail Regional Public Library.

BACKGROUND: Over a year ago at the January 22, 2013 Commissioners' meeting, the library director reviewed the status of the building program for the Topsail Regional Public Library which would replace the Hampstead Branch Library. In 2008 design on the facility was underway but halted due to two reasons. First, the recession's negative impact on revenues and, secondly, the proposed location on school property was essentially denied by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

As a result, the library while remaining in the capital project long range plan, is still without a building site when the time comes again to restart the project. At the 2013 library presentation, the Board of County Commissioners were alerted that if the commissioners decided to renovate old Topsail High School building for the office annex, the library would then ask for north side of the property to be reserved as the location for the new regional library. With the renovation now well underway, we are here today for the purpose to request action on this issue.

A public library joining the county government office annex would complement and concentrate county services at one place for Topsail residents. The location offers the most central, accessible, and visible place for public library services in Topsail Township. Purchasing an appropriate site on the main corridor of Topsail Township, or elsewhere, could cost millions of dollars.

Although it can be revised, the library building program currently recommends a facility of 23,000 square feet and a minimum of 115 parking spaces to serve the growing population for the next 30 years. This location would well accommodate these needs. The Advisory Library Board of Trustees, who you have appointed to advise the county on library matters, including the development of library facilities, are in full support of this proposal.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution to designate and reserve the northwest half of the old Topsail High School property, roughly the old ball field site fronting highway U.S. 17, as the future site of the Topsail Regional Public Library which is in the county's capital project long range plan.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.



Initial

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pender County Board of Comtmissioners that:

the northwest half of the new county government Hampstead Office Annex property (the former Topsail High School) be designated and reserved for the purpose of the building location of the Topsail Regional Public Library at some year in the future when the county determines the time is right. The County Manager/Chairman is authorized it execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Williams ___ McCoy ___ Brown ___ Tate ___ Ward ___

David Williams, Jr., Chairman 5-5-2014
Date

ATTEST Date