

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOVINGSTON, VA - Nelson County has successfully acquired approximately 683 acres along the Route 29 corridor south of Lovingston through a pre-auction purchase agreement at an all-in cost of \$8,925,000. The acquisition represents a strategic investment in an area long identified by County planning efforts as a key location for future economic development because of its transportation access and proximity to existing infrastructure.

County Administrator, Candy McGarry said " The financial stewardship of the Board of Supervisors over the years enabled the County to react quickly to this opportunity. Purchase of the property fits within the already established debt capacity strategy, without additional General Fund revenues; therefore, there is no increased burden on the taxpayer."

County officials recognize the public interest surrounding the purchase and are committed to transparency throughout the process. The acquisition allows the County to evaluate future opportunities for this strategically located property, rather than seeing it pass into private ownership without public input.

County officials emphasized several important points:

- * The acquisition does not approve or commit the County to any specific development project.
- * No rezoning actions are being proposed as part of this purchase.
- * Any future use of the property would require public discussion, community input, and appropriate governmental approvals.
- * County ownership provides greater local control over future outcomes that would not exist under private ownership.
- * The property can be evaluated for a variety of potential public purposes, including economic development, recreation, infrastructure, or a combination of uses.
- * Purchase of the property fits within the already established debt capacity strategy, without additional General Fund revenues.

The Board believes responsible economic development remains essential to maintaining quality public services, supporting schools, strengthening public safety, and reducing pressure on residential property taxpayers. At the same time, County leaders remain committed to preserving the character, natural beauty, and agricultural heritage that make Nelson County unique.

Over the coming months, the County will conduct additional analysis regarding the property's opportunities, constraints, infrastructure needs, environmental considerations, and potential public benefits. Citizens will have multiple opportunities to participate in those discussions.

"This is not the end of a process, it is the beginning of one," said Dr. Jessica Ligon, Board Chair. "The purchase simply ensures that Nelson County residents will have a seat at the table in determining the future of this property." Additional information regarding the acquisition and future public engagement opportunities will be made available through County meetings and official communication channels.

About Nelson County

Nelson County is committed to fostering economic vitality while preserving the rural character, natural resources, and quality of life that define our community. The County works to balance responsible growth, environmental stewardship, and fiscal responsibility for current and future generations.

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