



Photo by Todd Luck

Transforming the old Sherriff's office building on Third Street into the new home of a merged SciWorks and Children's Museum of Winston-Salem could be one of several bonds on the November ballot.



Witherspoon



Green



Kortenaar

Forsyth Tech at airport among bond proposals

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A Forsyth Tech aviation center at the Smith Reynolds Airport, SciWorks relocating downtown, and a new or renovated courthouse were among the bond possibilities Forsyth County commissioners heard on Thursday, May 19.

The County Commissioners are considering which proposals they will add to the November ballot as bond referendums, which would ask taxpayers if they want to pay higher taxes to fund them. The commissioners also have the option of paying for them with limited liability bonds, in which the county takes on debt without voter approval. Commissioners have to pass a resolution by June 13 for the bonds they want on the ballot.

Forsyth Technical Community College President Dr. Gary Green presented a \$65 million bond request. This includes hanger and classroom space at Smith Reynolds Airport, located off Liberty Street, for a new program that will prepare students to

work on the mechanical structure of airplanes. He said this can provide skilled, FAA-certified employees that local aviation companies at the airport need.

"This is a valuable project for economic development in our community," said Green.

Among the other Forsyth Tech projects is renovations at the Oak Gove Center - a building formerly used as the school system's Career Center - that includes more classrooms, a 3-D printing center and other improvements. The college also wants to build a new learning commons building that will contain a new library, which Green said is needed for the school to continue to be accredited. The money would also be used to expand the college's Transportation Technology Center on Patterson Avenue.

SciWorks Director Paul Kortenaar presented a \$20 million bond request that would transform the former Sheriff's Office on Third Street into a museum. SciWorks, a children's science museum located on West Hanes Mill Road, is merg-

ing with the Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, currently located on downtown Liberty Street. He said, along with a new, more diverse board, the two merged museums want a new location in the former Sheriff's Office. He said the museums will be doing their own \$10 million capital campaign for exhibits.

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools asked for a \$350 million bond that will deal with aging buildings and technology, along with having enough classrooms to accommodate the growing student body. It will pay for two new middle schools, four replacements schools, additions to four schools and renovations at four others. It also includes numerous other capital improvements and new technology at every school.

County Commissioner Everette Witherspoon said he felt the county owed the school system the bond, since it has lower per pupil spending than other urban counties like Guilford.

"We've short changed education," he said.

The commissioners heard possibilities on potential renovations at the Forsyth County Hall of Justice to deal with space and repair needs. The most expensive possibility was building a new courthouse for \$145 million on Second Street, which included a parking deck and walkway to the neighboring Forsyth County Detention Center. There was a \$142 million option for a new courthouse to be built on the parking lot of the current one and the site of the Piedmont Federal building next door. There's also a \$112 million option that would add on to the current structure building a new tower for courtrooms in the current parking lot while using the old building for office space.

The commissioners also heard a proposal for \$10 million for 15 capital projects at the County's park, mostly concentrated at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, and heard about \$6.54 million in other capital needs that includes repairs at the detention center and to local libraries.



Submitted photo

Seated (L-R) are: Xavier Hayes (The Rita V. Taylor Scholarship winner), his mother Tasha Hayes, Jason Rowlands (father of Jessica). Back row (L-R) are: Rudolph V. Boone, Sr. and Jessica Rowlands (winner of the Rudolph V. Boone, Sr. Scholarship). Both scholarship winners receive \$1,000 each. Not seen on the picture are scholarship committee co-chairs Florence G. Wiley, Jo Anne Goetz and president Carolyn Ely.

Two receive scholarships from Retired School Personnel group

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The W-S/FC Unit, N.C. Retired School Personnel had its Annual Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, May 11, at Knollwood Baptist Church. At that time it awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school students.

The two scholarship winners were: Jessica Rowlands, a Glenn High School student who plans to major in special education. She is the first recipient of "The Rudolph V. Boone, Sr. Scholarship."

Xavier Hayes is a student at Walkertown High School who plans to major in music education. Xavier received the Rita V. Taylor Scholarship.

Tasha Hayes and Jason Rowlands, parents of the two award winners, were present to support their children.

Boone was honored by the unit by renaming one of its scholarships in his name. He is a longtime member of the unit, who has served as its president, vice president, program chairman, community participation chairman, choir director and newsletter editor.

The guest speaker for the event was J. R. Snyder, a WSJS-AM Radio personality. The program chairman is Roger Scott.



VETERANS HARRY
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