

Council Of State Approves Sale Of Site For College

The governor and council of State gave final approval yesterday to the sale of state-owned land as a site for Western Piedmont Community College in Burke County.

The council, meeting in Raleigh, authorized the transfer of 132.28 acres of land owned by the North Carolina School for the Deaf. The sale price was \$95,000.

The action clears the way for formal planning of college construction on a site which is known to have been favored since the first proposals were made for a comprehensive community college in Burke County.

The tract was formerly part of the School for the Deaf before farming operations were discontinued. It lies alongside U.S. 64 at the northeastern interchange of Interstate 40. It is bounded on the south, for the most part, by I-40; on the west by U.S. 64; on the north by the other land of the School for the Deaf; and on the east by Hunting Creek and the lands of Broughton Hospital.

The tract had been leased to Broughton Hospital for farming purposes since NCSD suspended farming.

When the site was first proposed for a community college, many observers in Raleigh said they regarded it as the best for a commuting college thus far advanced by any North Carolina community.

Negotiations for the site were handled by committees representing the two institutions.

The finance committee of the college board of trustees in charge of obtaining the site is composed of Earl M. Spencer of Valdese, chairman; G. Maurice Hill of Morganton; Dr. C. L. Walton of Glen Alpine, and E. P. Dameron of Marion.

The special committee of the NCSD board of directors is composed of Howard Moose of Newton, chairman; Sam McD. Tate of Morganton, and J. G. Northcott of Black Mountain.

The transaction was approved by the full boards of both institutions.

Sale of State property is subject to approval of the governor and Council of State and that approval came at Thursday's meeting in Raleigh, upon recommendation of Frank Turner, State property control officer.

Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., chairman of the Western Piedmont board, said trustees are pleased to bring the site acquisition to a close. The finance committee is to be commended for an excellent job in handling the transaction, he said.

The size of the tract, as announced from Raleigh, varies only slightly from the acreage estimated in earlier discussions. It was thought to consist of 130.4 acres, but the Council of State announced approval of 132.28 acres.

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