

RESOLUTION 2017 / 1

A RESOLUTION TO THE BEAUFORT COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION REQUESTING A PROVISIO BE WRITTEN TO RETAIN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY TO BE APPLIED TO THE PURCHASE, CONSTRUCTION AND/OR RENOVATION OF RESIDENTIAL HOMES TO BE MANAGED BY BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

WHEREAS, The Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board sent a resolution regarding the Beaufort County Community Residential Care Facility (CRCF) located in the Town of Port Royal (County Council District 4) at 1508 Old Shell Road to the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation on December 17, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the DSN Board passed this resolution on December 16, 2014 in hopes that the Delegation will consider moving it forward during the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the DSN Board is appointed by Beaufort County Council and both bodies have concerns regarding the future of this facility, which is owned by the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) and leased by Beaufort County Council for its DSN Department; and

WHEREAS, this facility is aging and no longer meets the needs of those it is meant to serve as the State had the facility constructed more than 20 years ago as an Intermediate Care Facility, which is institutional in nature and contrary to current SCDDSN program standards, and approved converting the facility to a 15-bed CRCF about 17 years ago; and

WHEREAS, current State standards call for a CRCF to accommodate no more than 6 to 8 individuals, and the 15 individuals residing at this facility have developmental disabilities, to include high-behavior needs, high-physical needs, and issues associated with aging, such as Alzheimer's and other dementias; and

WHEREAS, given the diverse, over-population in this facility, the ability of the County to best meet the needs of these individuals is adversely impacted, compromising the health and safety of the County employees and the individual residents; and

WHEREAS, based on current best practices established by SCDDSN and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), including the "Final Rule" (which looks at not only where a person lives, but how and with whom they spend their day), the facility prevents Beaufort County from coming into compliance with required home and community-based services; and

WHEREAS, the facility does not offer residents a homelike setting which is prescribed, thereby diminishing the care provided to the individuals living at the facility; and

WHEREAS, the location of the facility next to marshes and tidal waterways does not provide a safe setting for the residents, many of whom have communication disabilities; and

WHEREAS, these individuals deserve to reside in a home which affords them the opportunity to be in a place which is better integrated into the fabric of Beaufort County, enabling them to live as normal a life as possible; and

WHEREAS, Beaufort County DSN is facing challenges in transitioning these individuals per compliance requirements due to the facility being owned by SCDDSN; and


WHEREAS, should the property be sold, half of the proceeds will return to the State according to State law, thereby removing critical funding, which would be available to Beaufort County to develop appropriate housing for these individuals under its care and lead to the transfer of these individuals from Beaufort County and away from their loved ones to an alternate facility in a different county; and

WHEREAS, should this property be sold and all revenue be made available to Beaufort County to help develop compliant, smaller residential settings throughout the County, these residents will be able to remain in Beaufort County, their home, where they will be afforded an enhanced quality of life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Beaufort County Council requests that the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation introduce and work diligently to pass a proviso to the South Carolina General Assembly session that would require the return of 100% of the proceeds of the future sale of the Port Royal CRCF property to Beaufort County for the express purpose of purchasing, constructing, or renovating several new smaller residential facilities for its residents with developmental disabilities that would both conform to compliance directives on appropriate residential settings for these persons and better enable Beaufort County to provide the necessary ongoing care for these residents in safer, more appropriate housing.

DONE this 23rd day of January, 2017

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

By: 
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Thomas J. Keaveny, II, County Attorney

ATTEST:


Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council