

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: May 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on “Project Sweet Tater”

PRESENTER: Charles Russell Burrell, County Attorney
Brent Coston, Agribusiness Henderson County Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS: Notice of Public Hearing

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Board has before it “*Project Sweet Tater*”, an agricultural economic development proposal involving an existing Henderson County business.

As this project was described in the advertisement for public hearing (April 16 in the *Hendersonville Lightning*), the project involves a total taxable capital investment by the company of at least \$4,775,000.00 over two years in real property improvements and business personal property (equipment). The project would result in the retention of thirty-five (35) jobs, and the creation of thirty-four (34) new jobs, with the new jobs paying an average wage of \$59,147 per year (which is in excess of the average wage in Henderson County for full-time employment) plus other benefits. The contemplated incentives would last for a period of seven years. Under the Board’s guidelines, the first year’s contemplated incentive, if granted, would be not more than \$5,732.30, based on the new investment, the number of retained employees, and the Board’s incentives guidelines for job retention projects. The maximum amount of incentives to be considered in this grant over the seven years (for each of the two annual investments) would be \$48,809.40.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Before taking action on the rezoning request, the Board of Commissioners must hold a public hearing. A suggested motion is provided in the event the Board is inclined to offer incentives.

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Board offer incentives under the Board’s guidelines to the “Project Sweet Tater” company.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §158-7.1 that the Henderson County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at a regular meeting on May 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Board can consider the matter, to consider the request of the “Project Sweet Tater” company (the “company”), for economic development incentives.

Project Sweet Tater is an agricultural research business concern located inside the United States (including Henderson County) contemplating new investment at its site in Henderson County.

Under the project as proposed, the public benefit to be derived from the capital project is a total taxable capital investment by the company of at least \$4,775,000.00 over two years in real property improvements and business personal property (equipment). The project would result in the retention of thirty-five (35) jobs, and the creation of thirty-four (34) new jobs, with the new jobs paying an average wage of \$59,147 per year (which is in excess of the average wage in Henderson County for full-time employment) plus other benefits. The contemplated incentives would last for a period of seven years. The first year’s contemplated incentive, if granted, would be not more than \$5,732.30., based on the new investment, the number of retained employees, and the Board’s incentives guidelines for job retention projects. The maximum amount of incentives to be considered in this grant over the seven years (for each of the two annual investments) would be \$48,809.40.

Henderson County will consider granting assistance toward the investment of Project Sweet Tater.

If approved, the request would be funded through the general property tax revenue. The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse, located at 1 Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville, NC. The public is invited to attend and comment.

Denisa Lauffer, Clerk to the

Henderson County Board of Commissioners