

NEWS RELEASE
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OBICI HOUSE SOLUTION OFFERED

Suffolk, VA (January 14, 2010) – Facing an uncertain future for a piece of Suffolk’s history, a community leader has stepped up to offer a solution. James R. Rountree, owner of Rountree, LLC, advised city officials today that he would like to incorporate Obici House into the operation and vision of Sleepy Hole Golf Course.

Rountree, a Suffolk native, has operated Sleepy Hole Golf Course for the past fifteen years. His company secured a twenty year lease of the golf course property last year but the agreement excluded the Obici House. Rountree advised his decision to request the structure’s inclusion is based on his strong commitment to the community. “Not only do I believe the building should be reused, I’d like to make it possible and open it to the community.”

City Council since 2005 has sought a viable renovation and reuse plan for Obici House. Rountree is now proposing to incorporate the renovation and reuse of the house at its current location. As part of the current lease between Rountree, LLC and the City of Suffolk, at the expiration of the twenty year lease, the property and all improvements are returned to the City.

Rountree has owned and operated a successful Suffolk business since 1972, completing over 50 million dollars in projects in the past several years in Suffolk and surrounding cities.

City Administration had been instructed by City Council to evaluate all options and make recommendations at the January 20th Council meeting. Rountree's proposal to amend the current twenty year lease will now be included as one of the options considered.

Mayor Linda Johnson was pleased to hear of Rountree's offer. "It is wonderful to hear that Mr. Rountree is willing to play such an active role in maintaining a piece of Suffolk's history. It speaks volumes of his commitment both as a Suffolk citizen and a business owner," advised Johnson.

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