



TEAM promotes parks

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Cindy Anderson with TEAM Santa Rosa spoke with commissioners Monday morning about the progress they are making with Whiting Aviation Park and the Santa Rosa Industrial Park as they target businesses for the county.

Anderson said the Whiting Aviation Park is working to clear and price property for businesses as the park works towards completion. As promised by TEAM, Anderson is targeting high paying jobs that will offer a variety of opportunities for residents looking for work.

"We are giving discounts on property depending on wages, the number of jobs they are offering and whether they are a defense contractor," Anderson said. "We are trying to get all of our ducks in a row in getting the industrial park ready to go."

Those ducks include pricing for the property that a business will inhabit. Anderson told commissioners that the prices have a broad range depending on how many jobs the business is bringing in and the average wage.

Anderson told commissioners TEAM has three base prices for property they are offering businesses, depending on location. \$75,000 will buy a business a storefront on the tarmac or the taxiway of the park, while \$35,000 an acre will buy a business an internal lot within the park.

By enticing businesses to come to Santa Rosa County, Anderson is looking to build monument signs on the North West Florida Industrial Park and Whiting Aviation Park.

The signs would come from the economic development electric franchise fee, and she said she is working on getting prices for the signs to bring to the commissioners.

"Santa Rosa County is truly running with the big dogs now," Anderson said. "We will allocate a piece of the electric franchise fee for marketing, and we are going to work on bringing a quote to the county administrator for the signs."

Anderson was not only working with commissioners, but is trying to work with the Santa Rosa Industrial Park to clear land to enable expansion of existing businesses.

Anderson said TEAM is currently in a time crunch to clear the land. She said she was not sure of how much land has been cleared for the businesses, but is trying to work with the county to get permits. She said she would come to commissioners at the next commission meeting in two weeks with an update.

Commissioner Bob Cole asked Anderson if the land that public works was clearing had any value that they could use to save them money on the project.

"Can we save any money on the property by utilizing the trees as marketable?" Cole asked.

Public works director Avis Whitfield who is overlooking the project said the land that public works is clearing has no marketable trees on this set of property that they could use and sell to gain back some of the money they are losing.

Commissioner Gordon Goodin approved Anderson's request, for the land proposals for Thursday's agenda. Anderson said she would be back Thursday with an update on the land clearing at the Santa Rosa Industrial Park.

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