

Has the deal with Firetree Ltd. Fallen through?

By: Sue Getz

MIFFLINBURG – There is confusion at this time as to whether or not the deal between the state and Firetree Ltd for the purchase of the former Laurelton Center is still on track.

The state has been negotiating with Firetree for the sale of 343-acres of property in Hartley Township.

Since Firetree's proposal has become public, local residents have raised several concerns.

Several hundred people attended a meeting Wednesday night at the Mifflinburg High School auditorium – some to oppose the sale of the former Laurelton Center to Firetree Ltd and some to receive more information about the potential deal.

Most of the people attending the meeting, agreed the property should go to Woodward Camp.

A representative from Firetree who attended the meeting said the company has met all of the state's requirements for the sale and it should proceed.

Terri Duer, a spokesperson for Firetree, said the company's bid did meet the requirements as sent out by a company called Binswanger. The real estate company was retained by the state to sell the property. To back up her claim, she produced a property information package by Bingswanger that included a market analysis for the property.

This analysis included the fol-

VanSickle, William Haas and Preston Boop along with Mifflinburg school officials.

In opposition to some of the statements from spokespeople for Firetree, Fairchild stated "Any tax-exempt organization does not meet legal muster. I don't have a clue if the agreement is going to be signed or not, but if an agreement is signed, it would be illegal."

Following this meeting, Channel 16 news reported the deal with Firetree had fallen through.

In speaking with Rep. Russell Fairchild on Thursday morning, he stated he had received a telephone call Wed. night at 10:15 from a Channel 16 news reporter, stating when she had returned from the meeting last evening, she retrieved a message she had received earlier in the day from Frank Kane of Firetree, stating the company had pulled out at 4:00 p.m.

At press time we were unable to confirm the reports that Firetree has pulled out of the deal..

Fairchild stated "I had no knowledge of any intent for Firetree to pull out of the deal prior to the telephone call last evening at 10:15 p.m. from the news reporter at Channel 16." As of early Thursday morning, Fairchild could not confirm or deny the information he had received from the reporter.

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