



The Clayton Tribune

THURSDAY, April 11, 2019

theclaytontribune.com

Vol. 122, No. 15 ■ \$1.00

Officials: Sale of building will bring jobs, revenue

County will receive \$8.1 million, retain 84 acres of land

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RABUN GAP—The Development Authority of Rabun County (DARC) is close to finalizing the sale of the 1-million-square-foot Rabun Business Park building to ELK Group International.

ELK Group International manufactures lighting fixtures, decorative accessories and furniture, and has been leasing part of the building for a little over a year.

“We [Development Authority] hope to close on or before July 31,” said Claude Dillard, chairman for the Development Authority of Rabun County.

Dillard said it’s important to note the specifics of the \$8.1 million sale.

“The footprint of the building is what’s being sold. And so, what’s going to be left is we’re going to retain about 84 acres. We’re only selling the building itself. The Development Authority’s going to retain 84 acres,” Dillard said.

He also noted that the DARC will retain the water and sewer rights to the building and that the 84 acres can be used for further economic development or future use.

“We were created by the county to handle transactions like this. But also, economic development is

about creating jobs for the county. And so, that’s our number one goal when we’re looking at economic development,” Dillard said.

The DARC decided to sell after advice that it would be better than continuing to try and fill it by leasing it to companies. Dillard said Rabun County agreed (they own the building) and brokerage companies were sought after to go over details of the sales market.

“We got three different brokerage companies to do an analysis for us to determine what kind of sale price would be good and what the market was bearing and what

Please see **DARC**, A12



DARC Photo

The pending sale of the Rabun Business Park building to ELK Group International is expected to be completed by July 31.