

Old WHS Property Now Has Two Offers

Written by Steve Frank

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It's a tale of two offers, as the Old Watauga High site is suddenly a hot property for developers. Two offers are now on the table, as of the Watauga County Commission meeting this morning, one reported on last week, a \$15 million offer from Campus Crest, represented locally by Rick Miller, "Their initial plans are for 250 to 500 residential units there, and then other than that, it will be a mixed use for the rest of the property." And the new proposal, put together only yesterday, a \$15.5 million dollar offer from Place Acquisitions, represented by Tony di Santi, "If it's just student housing, the town of Boone will not approve that project. I talked with Mr. Clark about that. He's aware of that. And that's the reason this will be what we will be calling a destination type of community where the residents will have access to restaurants, retail, entertainment—all on one complete area." Commissioners placed the bar at \$16.5 million, wanting to hear from these and possibly other developers at their October 16th meeting. So with two offers on the table, it remains to be seen whether the 'bar' the county has set at \$16.5 million will be too rich for these or others, or whether the October 16th meeting will yield something completely different.