

Axium Foods looks to expand with addition of warehouse

By ROBERT CROZIER Staff writer | Posted: Thursday, January 28, 2016 4:00 pm

SOUTH BELOIT — Axium Foods is looking into building a 50,000-square-foot warehouse northwest of the intersection of Willowbrook Road and Gardner Street in the agricultural lot west of Finnegan's RV Center, across the road from one of the snack food company's current facilities.

South Beloit Mayor Ted Rehl addressed to the Prairie Hill School District Board of Education on Tuesday night, saying the company is currently leasing a warehouse in Beloit, but it will save money by building their own warehouse.

Axium Foods produces corn-based snack foods and has been in operation for more than 50 years. It employs about 170 people at its two facilities in South Beloit at 239 Oak Grove Ave. and 15760 Willowbrook Road.

Rehl said the building of a new warehouse could spur further growth in the area.

"Let's get it started because there's nothing going on. Nobody's interested in land where nothing is going on," he said, adding that the warehouse will put up a "big strobe light."

He added that South Beloit's Willowbrook Road could become like Beloit's Gateway Park, where development deals fell into place "like dominoes."

Rehl introduced the project to the school board because, if it continues to go forward, he will return sometime in March to ask the district to abate its portion of property taxes collected there for the next 10 years as a development incentive for the project. The district currently gets little more than \$250 annually from taxes on that property, Rehl said.

Prairie Hill Superintendent Wes Heiar said the next day that his board seemed amenable to the idea.

"Our board, I know, would approve it because they want some good commercial property in," Heiar said. "As far as I could tell, we're very optimistic about the idea."