

# COP lease hearing set

**By Diana McFarland**  
*News editor*

Whether to rent the former health department building to Christian Outreach will go before a public hearing Dec. 20.

Also having a public hearing that evening is a purchase offer by Hope Presbyterian Church to buy eight acres from Isle of Wight County off Great Springs Road in Smithfield.

The property is part of a larger parcel purchased by the county for the new

rescue squad building.

Public hearings begin at 7 p.m. at the Isle of Wight Courthouse complex.

Christian Outreach is proposing to lease the building for 25 years, with automatic renewals for the cost of the real estate tax, which is currently \$1,300 a year. Christian Outreach would be allowed to alter the interior of the building to its specifications.

The lease arrangement would be similar to that between the county and the

Luter Family YMCA, which began in the former Smithfield High School building on James Street.

Christian Outreach will use the space to locate all the items it uses for its numerous programs, as well as provide an opportunity to streamline its food program. Currently, Christian Outreach operates out of a remote, unheated and un-air-conditioned building at Isle of Wight's industrial park off Route 10.

The health department building was one of several properties the county was attempting to sell to balance the fiscal 2013 budget. The property has been removed from the sale list, which has been taken over by a commercial real estate broker.

The 5,500 square foot health department building, constructed in the 1970s, is currently assessed at \$629,600.

Hope Presbyterian wants to buy eight acres from the county for \$64,000 — or \$8,000 an acre. The parcel fronts Great Springs Road.

Hope Presbyterian Church, which currently meets in the Luter Family YMCA, has plans to build a permanent church on the property.

Isle of Wight purchased the 80 acres along Great Springs Road last year for \$450,000 for the new rescue squad building.