

The Journal

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Quarry project voted down

■ The Jefferson County Commission rejects a petition to rezone the property for commercial use by a 3-2 count.

By **BETH HENRY**
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CHARLES TOWN — Jefferson County commissioners struck down a petition to allow commercial uses at the Old Standard Quarry property on Thursday, after a crowd of about 100 people showed up to see the vote.

The controversial plans for a \$250 to 300 million hotel and upscale commercial development attracted hundreds of

supporters and opponents in recent weeks, and many audience members at Thursday's regular meeting wore stickers that showed their positions for and against the plans.

County commissioners themselves were divided on the issue; President Frances Morgan and commissioners Rusty Morgan and Jim Surkamp voted to deny the petition to rezone the property to allow for commercial uses, while commissioners Greg Corliss and Dale Manuel voted against the motion.

Corliss and Manuel said they wanted to see more economic development, jobs and a stronger tax base that would be created by this type of project. However, Surkamp, Rusty Morgan and Frances Morgan said they could not support commercial uses at the site because of traffic concerns and the sensitive location next to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park land.

Commissioners heard 15 minutes of arguments from people on both sides of the issue during the meeting, which was moved from the courthouse to the Old Charles Town Library's meeting room to accommodate the overflowing crowd.

Those who spoke in support of the commercial rezoning included the developers' attorney Jim Campbell, Delegate Bob Tabb, D-Jefferson, and a number of

See **QUARRY A2**

Delegate Bob Tabb, D-Jefferson, speaks in favor of a proposed \$250 million to \$300 million commercial project during a Jefferson County Commission meeting Thursday, where a rezoning request for the Old Standard Quarry site was denied.

Journal photo by Beth Henry

