

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007, 6:30 P.M.**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Meeting on Monday, February 5, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. with the following present: Chairman Kenneth R. Robinette; Vice-Chairman John B. Garner; Commissioners Pamela N. Dillman, Jimmy L. Maske, Thad Ussery, J. C. Watkins, and Paul Wilson, Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robinette at 6:30 P.M.

ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner J. C. Watkins.

ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

ITEM NO. 3 – OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC COMMENT – 6:30-7:00 P.M.

A) REPORT BY MS. KAY WILLIAMS OF THE U. S. CENSUS BUREAU (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Ms. Kay Williams, a recruiter with the U.S. Census Bureau, appeared before the Board to discuss employment opportunities in Richmond County for the Census. Ms. Williams advised that 215 enumerators would be recruited in Richmond County beginning in late March or early April at an hourly wage of \$11.50. Ms. Williams noted that North Carolina and California are the only states doing the Census dress rehearsal and that new hand-held computers would be used. Ms. Williams advised that these jobs would be advertised and applications accepted through Employment Security Commission. Ms. Williams estimated that 430 people would be tested for the positions, and qualified applicants must have a driver's license.

ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER CHANGE OF ROAD NAME

The advertised public hearing to consider a request by Richmond County E-911 to rename Moore County Line Road to Thunder Road was declared open by Chairman Robinette at 6:35 P.M.

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong offered to answer questions regarding the requested road name change, noting that there had been some recent confusion in responding to a 911 call regarding the location of this road since the caller had referred to the road as Thunder Road.

There were no other speakers for or against the requested road name change, and the hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to approve the requested change of the name of SR 1473 from Moore County Line Road to Thunder Road.

ITEM NO. 5 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON APPLICATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR FINANCING OF RICHMOND COUNTY WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Chairman Robinette declared the Public Hearing to receive citizen input on an application to the Local Government Commission for financing of the Richmond County Water Improvements Project open at 6:36 P.M. for public comments.

Director of Development Rick Sago advised that this is actually two projects to serve Trinity Manufacturing and the new Viking Pools Plant. Mr. Sago noted that the total project is estimated at \$2,714,500.00, with \$1,730,000.00 of the project to be funded through grants, and \$984,500.00 to be paid by the County through installment financing and repaid over a 6-year term upon approval of the application by the Local Government Commission.

Chairman Robinette opened the floor for additional speakers. There were no further comments, and the hearing was declared closed by the Chairman at 6:40 P.M.

ITEM NO. 6 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO DECLARE OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES FOR TRINITY/VIKING POOLS WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Director of Development Rick Sago presented a Resolution for the Board's consideration that would declare official intent that the County will pay itself back for expenditures incurred for the water improvements project prior to availability of Local Government Commission approved

County Manager Haynes reminded the Board that installment financing through a lending institution had been previously approved by the Board pending LGC approval of the financing, and that the purpose of the Resolution is to allow reimbursement to ourselves for expenditures made prior to availability of the borrowed funds.

Commissioner Watkins confirmed that on occasion money from the Water Fund has been used for water expansion projects and then repaid. Mr. Sago noted that interest rates are very attractive right now for financing this project.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to approve the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION
RICHMOND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that Richmond County, North Carolina does adopt the following Declaration (the "Declaration") made pursuant to the requirements of the United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2 and is intended to constitute a Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse under such Treasury Regulations Section.

The undersigned is authorized to declare the official intent of Richmond County, NC (the "Issuer") with respect to the matters contained herein.

1. **Expenditures to be Incurred.** The Issuer anticipates incurring expenditures (the "Expenditures") to complete the Trinity/Viking Water Improvements Project.

2. **Plan of Finance.** The Issuer intends to finance the costs of the project with the proceeds of debt to be issued by the Issuer (the "Borrowing"), the interest on which is to be excluded from gross income for Federal income tax purposes.

3. **Maximum Principal Amount of Debt to be Issued.** The maximum principal amount of the borrowing to be incurred by the issuer to finance the Project is \$984,500.00.

3. **Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse.** The issuer hereby declares its official intent to reimburse itself with the proceeds of the Borrowing for any of the Expenditures incurred by it prior to the issuance of the Borrowing.

Adopted by the Richmond County Board of Commissioners this 5th day of February, 2007.

ITEM NO. 7 – REPORT FROM RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOLS FOR UPDATE ON SCHOOL BOND EXPENDITURES AND PROJECTS

Richmond County Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry K. Weatherly, Dr. Robert Beck, and Finance Officer Pam Satterfield appeared before the Board to provide an update on recent expenditures and projects.

Dr. Weatherly bleachers and floor are new at RSHS gym, and Hudson Paving has resurfaced the parking lot at RSHS. Dr. Weatherly noted that there are four sources of revenue: bond funds; corporate funds; sales tax funds; and regular Capital Outlay funds. Dr. Weatherly went on to explain that funds for projects have come from various funds; roofing projects are underway; Fairview Heights has had more roof problems than anticipated; and design fees have been established for Fairview Heights, Hoffman, Roberdel, and West Rockingham. Dr. Weatherly advised that state lottery funds are being used right now for projects; some projects will be designed in phases, and as lottery funds become available, projects will begin; a new site to replace Rohanen has not yet been chosen; RFP's have been sent to architects for construction of a new school; borings are being done on one site; and Ken Mills has been retained to oversee projects.

Commissioner Ussery asked Dr. Weatherly how much revenue he anticipated from the State Lottery. Dr. Weatherly expected approximately \$1,000,000.00, or possibly as much as \$1.2 million in lottery funds. Dr. Weatherly indicated that since bonds have not yet been sold, there

are some cash flow problems. However, Dr. Weatherly advised that the County has advanced some funds to the schools and sales tax money is being used pending reimbursement.

There was discussion of the deteriorated polyurethane roof at Fairview Heights, and Dr. Weatherly indicated that the roof might be as much as 25 years old and that leaks had not been detected in the early stages.

There was further discussion of roofs, and Commissioner Watkins confirmed that plans are to use built-up roofs.

County Manager Haynes confirmed that debt payments for Rockingham Jr. High would be retired in November 2008.

Commissioner Ussery asked if it was anticipated that all of the projects would come up short on funding and have to use lottery money to supplement. Dr. Weatherly advised that the goal is to make the schools as nice as possible and still fit within the budget. Dr. Weatherly added that the State is proposing a statewide bond issue that would greatly benefit Richmond County.

Commissioner Dillman confirmed that lottery funds could only be used for new construction.

Commissioner Watkins asked Dr. Weatherly if he anticipated a need for roof replacements and repairs every year, and Dr. Weatherly stated that it is very difficult to keep up with roof work and there would be needs every year.

Commissioner Ussery questioned the use of multi-ply roofs rather than single-ply, and School Maintenance Director Terry Miller advised that the schools have had better luck with multi-ply roofs and that damage is easier to detect with a built-up roof.

Chairman Robinette thanked the Superintendent for the presentation.

ITEM NO. 8 – CONSENT AGENDA

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following items of the Consent Agenda:

- A) MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2007 AND SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2007 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK.**

- B) TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$35,313.99 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$2,755.83 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES BY REFERENCE.**

ITEM NO. 9 – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY MOUNTAIN CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR AUTHORIZATION AND COUNTY FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO PURCHASE NEW FIRE TRUCK

Mr. Jerry Snead appeared before the Board in behalf of Mountain Creek Fire Department to request county funding assistance for the purchase of a new fire truck. Mr. Snead advised that the County had given a truck to the department in 1989, and the department purchased another truck 6 years ago. Mr. Snead advised that there are 4 remaining payments of \$22,000.00 each due on the newer truck that the department purchased.

County Manager Haynes explained that Mountain Creek is requesting that the County assume the remaining \$88,000.00 in payments due on the newer truck so that the department might purchase a new truck. Mr. Haynes noted that the Mountain Creek Fire District Tax generates approximately \$35,000.00 annually and that this is the smallest of the County's fire tax districts in terms of value. Mr. Haynes noted that in past years the County has assisted fire departments with truck purchases, and he cautioned that other departments may also come forward to request assistance.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that \$7,500.00 per year has been contributed to fire departments toward truck purchases.

Commissioner Garner asked Mr. Snead if a new truck is needed now or could the purchase wait until the next round of funding. Mr. Snead advised that the 1989 truck has high mileage and they would like to get a replacement truck now, as the department often responds calls in Mangum as well as to routine calls for wrecks and fires. Mr. Snead added that a new truck would help to improve Mountain Creek's insurance rating from a 7 rating to a 6 or a 5.

Commissioner Maske suggested that an adjustment in the tax rate might be considered for the Mountain Creek Fire District, and in return, homeowners would receive break in homeowner's insurance premiums.

Commissioner Dillman asked about mileage on the older truck, and Mr. Snead advised that it has 127,000 miles.

Commissioner Ussery confirmed that this is a diesel truck.

Chairman Robinette recommended that the Board consider the Mountain Creek request during the budget process. Chairman Robinette also requested additional information on the volume of calls for Mountain Creek.

By consensus, the Board agreed to take the Mountain Creek funding request under advisement, and County Manager Haynes agreed to contact Mr. Snead for additional information.

ITEM NO. 10 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD TO PURCHASE MATERIALS FOR SOUTHEAST WATERLINE PROJECT

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones reported to the Board on the progress of the Southeast Waterline Project, advising that bids were opened on January 24, 2007. Mr. Jones

noted that 51% of the cost of the materials will be paid through EPA grant funds, and lines are currently being installed on Scholl Shankle Road and Mt. Moriah Church Road.

Based on the following recap of bids, Mr. Jones recommended award to H. D. Supply Waterworks, Ltd. as low bidder at \$121,331.19. A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to award the bid to H. D. Supply Waterworks, Ltd.

<u>NAME OF BIDDER</u>	<u>BID BOND</u>	<u>TOTAL BID</u>
<i>Carolina Water Systems Supply, Inc.</i>	5%	\$128,778.16
<i>Pipeline Supply Company Inc.</i>	NO BID BOND	
<i>Ferguson Waterworks</i>	5%	\$128,647.68
<i>H. D. Supply Waterworks, Ltd.</i>	5%	\$121,331.19

ITEM NO. 11 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR SILVER GROVE CHURCH ROAD WATERLINE AND PUMP STATION PROJECT

Director of Development Rick Sago appeared before the Board to present the Certified Bid Tabulation of 4 bids received and opened on February 1, 2007 (listed below) for the Silver Grove Church Road waterline and pump station project. Mr. Sago explained that this is the first phase of the water improvements project for Viking Pools Plant and would consist of approximately 6,100 LF of 16” waterline and a new pump station to increase fire flow pressure and volume to the new Viking Plant. Mr. Sago advised that consultants Municipal Engineering Services have evaluated the bids and verified the performance of the low bidder, and would recommend award of the contract to low bidder State Utility Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,087,955.00. Mr. Sago concurred with the recommendation by Municipal Engineering and requested that the Board consider award to the low bidder, with funding for the project to be a combination of CDBG funds and county funds.

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board authorized award of the Silver Grove Church Road Waterline and Pump Station Project to low bidder State Utility Contractors, Inc. at a bid of \$1,087,955.00, contingent upon receipt of Community Development Block Grant Funds and other funding sources.

CERTIFIED BID TABULATION

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>
<i>Bill’s Backhoe Service, Inc. Hamlet, NC</i>	\$1,241,400.00
<i>Hudson Paving, Inc. Rockingham, NC</i>	\$1,452,525.90
<i>Ralph Hodge Construction Company Wilson, NC</i>	\$1,491,000.00
<i>State Utility Contractors, Inc. Monroe, NC</i>	\$1,087,955.00

ITEM NO. 12 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TRINITY/VIKING POOLS WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Director of Development Rick Sago requested Board approval of the budget amendment necessary to establish accounts to appropriate funds from the various sources for the Trinity/Viking Pools Water Improvements Project.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve the following Budget Amendment as provided by the Finance Officer:

Expenditures

<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
647110-5118	Elevated Water Tanks & Lines	\$1,442,000.00	
647110-5119	Pump Stations & Lines	\$1,272,500.00	

Revenues

<u>Account Code</u>		
647110-333118	Rural Center Grant	\$ 640,000.00
647110-336007	Community Development Block Grant	\$ 950,000.00
647110-391004	Loan Proceeds	\$ 984,500.00
647110-336032	Golden Leaf Grant	\$ 140,000.00

ITEM NO. 13 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR RICHMOND COUNTY TO JOIN AS PARTICIPATING MEMBER OF SOUTHEASTERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Director of Development Rick Sago requested that the Board consider joining the Southeastern Economic Development Commission. Mr. Sago explained that Richmond County is the only county in the Southeast Region that is not a member of SEDC, and that additional avenues for private and bridge funding are available through SEDC. Mr. Sago recommended approval of the following Resolution and authorization to pay dues of \$5,125.00.00. Mr. Sago added that he would seek SEDC funds for training through RCC.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to approve the following Resolution to join Southeastern Economic Development Commission:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the counties of Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, New Hanover, Pender, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland joined together in late 1968 to form the Southeastern Economic Development Commission to assist the region in meeting its special problems, to promote economic development and to establish a framework for joint federal and state efforts toward providing the basic facilities essential to growth and attacking its common problems and meeting its common needs on a coordinated and concerted basis; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has operated successfully and provided its member counties and their municipalities assistance in completing grant applications to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) for \$76 million; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was created pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 158 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RICHMOND COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA that Richmond County wishes to join as a participating member of the Southeastern Economic Development Commission effective February 5, 2007 and hereby petitions the Board of Directors of the Commission to approve its pending membership.

This Resolution was adopted this the 5th day of February, 2007, upon a motion by Commissioner Maske and a second by Commissioner Ussery.

ITEM NO. 14 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO

Director of Development Rick Sago discussed the recent announcement on February 1 that Narricott Industries, a manufacturer of airbags for the automotive industry, would invest \$35,000,000.00 and create 200 jobs in a portion of the Burlington Industries Plant. Mr. Sago noted that the Department of Commerce and the Governor's Office were instrumental in this project, and state grant funds were provided through the One North Carolina Program and through the Department of Commerce Job Investment Development Grant Program. Mr. Sago stressed that the grant funds helped to encourage the company to locate in Richmond County, and this will be Richmond County's first entrance into highly engineered textiles. Mr. Sago further emphasized the cooperation and funding participation from the Department of Commerce and the Governor's Office in making this project a reality.

Chairman Robinette suggested that it would be appropriate to send letters of appreciation in behalf of the Board of Commissioners to the Governor and to the Department of Commerce for their support in the Narricott Project.

Mr. Sago advised that he attended a retreat in Pinehurst last week for North Carolina Southeast that was held for Economic Developers. Mr. Sago went on to credit N. C. Southeast for providing 25% of Richmond County's client leads and the Department of Commerce providing 35% of all leads. Mr. Sago emphasized the support from the Department of Commerce that Richmond County has earned and noted that Developers in other counties indicate that they have not achieved such a strong relationship with the Department of Commerce. Mr. Sago credited

the Board of Commissioners for having developed such a strong Economic Development Program, and the Department of Commerce has been willing to support Richmond County's efforts.

Commissioner Ussery noted that 11 years ago Richmond County did not have this kind of relationship with the State, but since that time the County has proven itself and gain support from the Department of Commerce. Commissioner Ussery also credited the efforts of former Developer Gwyn Voss in developing such a strong relationship with the State.

Commissioner Garner noted that Richmond County has made the effort to know the State representatives and to cultivate a good relationship.

Chairman Robinette advised that he and Claudia have hosted a dinner each year during the Southeast Retreat, and other Developers have expressed appreciation for Rick Sago's assistance to them with his engineering background and experience.

Commissioner Watkins noted that sometimes counties are criticized for investing too much in enticing businesses to locate, but he acknowledged the fact that Richmond County's citizens had been supportive of Economic Development efforts by voting for the bond referendum that made possible the purchase of land for the Richmond County Industrial Park on the 74 By-Pass.

Commissioner Maske commended Richmond County's workforce as a factor in Economic Development efforts.

Mr. Sago noted that the commitment of Dr. Diane Honeycutt and her staff have made Richmond Community College a huge factor in attracting industries and offering training opportunities through the college.

Mr. Sago requested that the Board set a Public Hearing date to be held during the February 20 Mid-Month Noon Meeting to offer an opportunity for public input on a proposed local incentive package for the Narricott Project.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman to advertise a Public Hearing to be held on February 20, 2007 at 12:00 Noon. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried.

Mr. Sago discussed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process for re-licensing of Blewett Falls Dam and the recent meeting that he and County Manager Haynes had attended on January 25. Mr. Sago pointed out the key issues of concern cited during the meeting: extreme fluctuation in lake level that had never varied more than one or two ft. before; inadequate water supply from Lake Tillery; and lack of lake access and recreational opportunities. Mr. Sago advised that the County and the City of Rockingham had spoken during the meeting and gone on record in opposition to these issues. Mr. Sago went on to note that while Progress Energy is an outstanding corporate citizen, these are decisions that will have a 40 to 50-year impact. Mr. Sago explained that the next step is official written comments to FERC that will be due no later than February 26, and filing an official Motion to Intervene, which would allow the County to file for relief, participate in hearings, and to seek judicial review – giving the County a seat at the table. Mr. Sago encouraged the Board to consider writing a letter and then filing the Motion to Intervene.

Commissioner Ussery questioned the cause of the extreme fluctuation in the lake level, and Mr. Sago advised that limited storage and the narrow lake account for the fluctuation.

Commissioner Dillman stressed the valuable resource that the Pee Dee River represents and that the river belongs to both Richmond and Anson Counties. Commissioner Dillman felt strongly that the citizens should have adequate access and be able to take advantage of recreational opportunities. Commissioner Dillman recommended a cooperative effort with Anson County and the City of Rockingham in addressing these issues.

Chairman Robinette concurred with Commissioner Dillman and noted that there will not be such an opportunity to address these issues again for another 50 years.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman to write a letter to FERC to go on record with the Board's concerns and to file a Motion to Intervene. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and unanimously carried.

In returning to discussion of state support of Richmond County's Economic Development efforts and the recent Narricott Project, Commissioner Maske offered a motion that letters of appreciation be written for the State's support. Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the letters would be addressed to the Governor and to Commerce Secretary Fain, and he offered a second to the motion, which carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 15 – MONTHLY REPORT BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised the Board of 3 meetings last month with transportation groups; consultant Wilbur Smith & Associates addressed the local TAC on the I-73 project; 2 principle connection points are now being considered; D.O.T. announced that the Hwy. 220 By-Pass is to be completed in November 2007; and the TIP for 2009-2015 process will be starting up in the coming months.

Mr. Armstrong advised that Commissioner Dillman represents Richmond County on the RTPO, but the municipalities do not have a representative right now.

Commissioner Dillman noted that for at least 5 more years highway projects will be pursued, and she emphasized the importance of the municipalities participating in the process and to take advantage of highway funds set aside for parks, greenways and roundabouts.

In discussion of Code Enforcement issues, Mr. Armstrong advised that 8 houses have been identified for Demolition and Removal in East Rockingham, and there have been no appeals from property owners. Mr. Armstrong requested Board approval of demolition orders.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins to approve the following Orders for Demolition and Removal as recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner. Commissioner Maske confirmed that all structures are vacant, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the following 8 orders:

Charles Leviner
105 3rd St. Safie
74721324443

James Benoist
84 7th Ave. Aleo
#747209066088

Keith Myers
1st St.
#747214342702

Nathan Morgan
316 Mill Rd.
#747209064626

Gloria Christine Oxendine
296 Mill Rd.
#747209070092

Myrtle Prevatte (Est.)
Mill Rd./1st Ave.
#747214249780

Misty Morgan
332 Mill Rd.
747209067302

Linda Renfro
5 Railroad St.
#747210257267

Mr. Armstrong noted that structures identified in Cordova to be demolished recently burned.

Mr. Armstrong advised that field work on verifying property on the Richmond/Scotland County Boundary should soon be available and presented to the Board.

In final remarks, Mr. Armstrong advised that the new interface to the internet GIS should soon be available to the public.

ITEM NO. 16 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES

County Manager Haynes reported that new Finance Office software will update how requisitions are handled between departments and should greatly expedite the process in an automated method and provide better control from a budget perspective.

In further discussion, County Manager Haynes noted that litter continues to be a problem and seems to be more visible in winter; the Veterans Service Office provided assistance to 429 veterans last month; the tax collection rate is .72% above the rate of collection at this time last year-the equivalent of \$130,000.00 more; 2006 taxes became delinquent after January 6; NCACC reports to counties on Legislative actions, and Medicaid relief continues to be a key issue to be monitored; property tax exclusions are being considered by the Legislature for industries; but relief would come from county Ad Valorem taxes; and a bill has been filed to determine where lottery funds would be spent.

In further discussion of Medicaid, Mr. Haynes advised that the Social Services Board has been notified that if we continue at the current rate, Richmond County will spend the State's cap money for overages. Mr. Haynes advised that if the State does not help to solve this problem, the County's Medicaid budget will be overspent.

In commenting on the recent industry announcement on the Narricott Project, Mr. Haynes advised that the project had been on again/off again, but Rick Sago was able to emphasize the need for the project in Richmond County. Mr. Haynes commented on the support that Richmond County has earned from the State, and the citizens of the County are the winners.

Chairman Robinette commented on the litter problem in the County and suggested that it might be beneficial to sit down with judges to emphasize the importance of prosecuting these cases.

Commissioner Dillman suggested use of warning signs that fines would be charged for littering offenders.

County Manager Haynes acknowledged that enforcement from the court system is not there, and that some cases have been ongoing for as much as 16 months.

Chairman Robinette stressed the importance of enforcement, and he suggested that a task force might be beneficial in addressing the litter issue.

Commissioner Ussery concurred that the litter situation won't improve until we can get support from the judicial system.

County Manager Haynes reported on his and Chairman Robinette's recent meeting with City of Rockingham officials to discuss the local ordinance limiting the height of buildings in the City. Mr. Haynes informed the Board that the City had received negative comments on the possible closing of Lee Street, but the City had been receptive to the possibility of constructing a 4-story building. Chairman Robinette concurred that the meeting with the City had been productive.

There was further discussion of the height of a 4-story building, and County Manager Haynes advised Commissioner Ussery that a 110 ft. ladder would be required on a fire truck to reach the 4th floor.

ITEM NO. 17 – OTHER BUSINESS

A) CONSIDERATION OF RESCHEDULE DATE FOR MARCH 5, 2007 REGULAR MEETING DUE TO CONFLICT WITH NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board voted to postpone the March 5 Regular Meeting to the following Monday, March 12, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. due to conflict with the NACo Legislative Conference dates.

Commissioner Dillman advised that she had enjoyed attending the AME Zion Church dedication ceremony on Sunday to commemorate the church's 120th anniversary.

Commissioner Watkins offered comments concerning recognition of Black History Month during February, and he advised that the AME Zion Church was founded due to slavery. Commissioner Watkins stressed the importance of recognizing and taking pride in the many contributions made by blacks throughout history. Commissioner Watkins acknowledged the need for greater recognition and respect of all ethnic and racial groups and their contributions.

There being no further business for discussion, a motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

*Marian S. Savage, CMC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners*