

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007, 6:30 P.M.**

*The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Meeting of March 12, 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 BY ASSISTANT PASTOR JIM PEARCE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM, NC**

*The invocation was delivered by Assistant Pastor Jim Pearce of Temple Baptist Church, Rockingham, NC.*

**ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Agenda as presented.*

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

**A) APPEARANCE BY MR. GEORGE MCRAE TO DISCUSS SCOTLAND COUNTY PROPOSED LANDFILL PROJECT (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)**

*Mr. George McRae appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed landfill site in Scotland County. Mr. McRae went on to discuss the volume of garbage – 39,000 tons, projected to go into the 2,300-acre landfill. Mr. McRae noted that the garbage would be trucked to the Scotland County landfill site through Richmond County from the North and Northwest.*

*Mr. McRae petitioned the Board to write a letter to the Scotland County Board of Commissioners to oppose the proposed landfill site, and he referenced a Solid Waste Code that would require the Sheriff to escort medical waste haulers through Richmond County.*

**B) APPEARANCE BY MRS. BARBARA BREARLEY TO DISCUSS APRIL 2 PUBLIC HEARING TO BE CONDUCTED BY SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT FOR LANDFILL (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)**

*Mrs. Brearley did not appear before the Board.*

**ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON PROPOSED INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY EXPANSION**

*The Public Hearing to receive citizen input on a proposed incentive package for a local industry expansion was declared open at 6:40 P.M.*

*Director of Development Rick Sago advised that Laticrete plans a \$1.8 million expansion, which would qualify the industry for a 5-year 50% tax grant from the County. Mr. Sago noted that tax grants have been used many times for qualifying industry expansions and new locations.*

*Chairman Robinette asked if there were any questions.*

*Commissioner Ussery asked the number of new jobs to be created by the Laticrete expansion.*

*Mr. Sago advised that 8 new full-time jobs would be created through the \$1.8 million expansion investment.*

*There were no other speakers, and the Public Hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette at 6:41 P.M.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to approve the 50% tax grant to Laticrete.*

**ITEM NO. 5 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON RICHMOND COUNTY'S 2007 SCATTERED-SITE HOUSING CDBG APPLICATION**

*The Public Hearing to receive citizen input on Richmond County's 2007 Scattered-Site Housing CDBG Application was declared open by Chairman Robinette at 6:42 P.M.*

*Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley advised that this is the second public hearing on the 2007 Scattered Site Application. Ms. Ridley further advised that Scattered Site funding is awarded every 3 years, and that the County's grant application will be submitted by March 31 to the Division of Community Assistance. In discussion of qualifications for award of the grant funds, Ms. Ridley advised that 4 recipient families have been identified, and that all recipients must own and occupy their homes and meet income requirements. Ms. Ridley went on to state that the funds are used to assist families whose living conditions are the most severe, and various representatives from communities helped to identify the families in need. In further discussion of the funding, Ms. Ridley advised that Richmond County has used CDBG funds to access additional funds through USDA for loans, with a total budget of \$400,000.00 in CDBG funds and \$100,000.00 in USDA Rural Development funding.*

*Commissioner Ussery inquired about applications that may already be on file, and Ms. Ridley advised that families are identified to qualify for other programs when houses are beyond repair.*

*Commissioner Maske confirmed that the USDA money is for loans, and Ms. Ridley advised that the loans would be made at a 1% interest rate over 20 years. Ms. Ridley further noted that some recipients will obtain half funding in USDA funds and the other half in CDBG funds.*

*There were no other speakers, and the Public Hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette at 6:47 P.M.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried, the Board authorized submittal of the 2007 Scattered Site Application.*

**ITEM NO. 6 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON THE CLOSE-OUT OF THE 2005 CDBG INFRASTRUCTURE HOOK-UP PROJECT**

*At 6:48 P.M., the Public Hearing to receive citizen input on the close-out of the 2005 CDBG Infrastructure Hook-Up Project was declared open by Chairman Robinette.*

*Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley advised that funds from the CDBG Infrastructure Hook-Up Project were used to assist 32 families with the cost of connecting to the new county waterline.*

*There were no other speakers, and the hearing was declared closed at 6:49 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.*

**ITEM NO. 7 – APPEARANCE BY USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAMIE LAMBETH FOR PROGRAM REPORT**

*USDA Farm Service Executive Director Jamie Lambeth introduced himself to the Board and provided an update on the programs offered through the Farm Service Agency.*

*Mr. Lambeth reported that the Farm Service Agency administers farm commodity programs to help farmers adjust financially. In his report, Mr. Lambeth noted that there are 250 active farms in Richmond County; 21,500 acres of crops were reported last year; Richmond County ranks 7th in the State in poultry production, and 13<sup>th</sup> in cash receipts at \$96.5 million. Mr. Lambeth went on to discuss the diversity and acreage of various crops in Richmond County, as well as poultry, swine, and cattle operations.*

*Mr. Lambeth concluded his report by pointing out the financial and environmental benefits to Richmond County through the Tobacco Transition Payment Program, the Non-Insured Assistance Program, and the Conservation Reserve Program.*

*Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Lambeth for his informative report.*

**ITEM NO. 8 – APPEARANCE BY HEALTH DIRECTOR DR. TOMMY JARRELL FOR PRESENTATION OF 2006 RICHMOND COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

*Health Director Dr. Tommy Jarrell and Ms. Michelle Parrish of Richmond County Healthy Carolinians Partnership appeared before the Board to provide a PowerPoint presentation of the 2006 Richmond County Community Health Assessment and provided a bound copy of the Assessment for each Board member.*

*Dr. Jarrell noted that the Community Health Assessment is prepared every 4 years to identify strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Jarrell went on to note that the Health Department partnered with Healthy Carolinians to distribute surveys throughout the County to gather information for the report. Dr. Jarrell reported that 503 surveys were returned and used to compile secondary data, and focus groups targeted minority populations to include with the surveys. In discussion of statistics, Dr. Jarrell noted that 34.7% of Richmond County's population of 46,676 is*

minority, with a big increase in the Hispanic population reflected in this number. Dr. Jarrell further noted that of the 623 births per year, 10% are Hispanics.

*In further discussion of statistics, Dr. Jarrell reported that the unemployment rate in Richmond County has declined over the years; \$21,673.00 is the per capita income; 29.27% of Richmond County's citizens receive Medicaid; the working poor are the segment of the population that are identified as not being insured; there are 34 Primary Care Physicians in Richmond County and 12 Dentists; the infant mortality rate has been stable in whites but increased among minorities; single parent births continue to increase; maternal health care is at the state average; SAT scores have increased, but the number of students taking SAT has declined; the 4 leading causes of death in the County are heart disease, cancer, cerebrovascular, and diabetes; and the Governor's Highway Safety Program has resulted in a decline in alcohol related vehicular deaths.*

*Dr. Jarrell advised that the State requires that the top 3 priority issues be selected from the Health Assessment: out of wedlock pregnancies, diabetes, and heart disease were identified as Richmond County's top 3 issues. Dr. Jarrell invited the Board of Commissioners to select key issues to be addressed, and he advised that the report in its entirety is available on the Health Department web site, copies are available in the County Manager's Office, hospitals, and libraries.*

*Chairman Robinette thanked Dr. Jarrell and Ms. Parrish for the informative report.*

**TEM NO. 9 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL FEES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOOD AND LODGING PROGRAM**

*County Manager Haynes advised that during the February 20 meeting, the Board of Health had adopted a Resolution in Support of Local Fees for the Food and Lodging Program.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery and seconded by Commissioner Dillman to adopt the Resolution as adopted by the Board of Health in support of local fees for the Food and Lodging Program. Commissioner Ussery noted that the State charges food and lodging facility owners for inspection and support services provided by the Counties, so the Board of Health had adopted the Resolution to request that the Legislature allow counties to establish local fees for such services.*

*The motion to adopt the following Resolution carried unanimously:*

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL FEES FOR  
FOOD AND LODGING**

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina mandates that local government provide Food and Lodging support and inspections; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005-2006, the State provided less than \$6,400.00 to Richmond County in support of providing Food and Lodging support and inspections; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005-2006, the local taxpayers of Richmond County contributed \$71,331 to meet the State mandated requirements of the Food and Lodging Program for Richmond County, and

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond County Food and Lodging Program has been 100 percent compliant with the State mandate for more than twelve years, and

**WHEREAS**, local health departments fully support holding the State Environmental Health Division harmless for the funding to develop and maintain the Environmental Health Data System; and

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond County Board of Health believes fee for service funding for Food and Lodging support and inspections would be more equitable than asking county residents to bear the cost of this State-mandated service through the use of Ad Valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, other State-mandated services, such as the On-Site Sewage Program, are partially funded using a fee for service approach; and

**WHEREAS**, Food and Lodging facility owners and operators are the ones who draw financial benefit from such facilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, meeting in Regular Session, hereby requests the General Assembly to enact legislation empowering local government to enact and collect fees for providing Food and Lodging support and inspections from such enterprises operating within their boundaries.

Adopted this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007.

**ITEM NO. 10 – REPORT BY MR. JERRY SNEAD OF MOUNTAIN CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

*Mr. Jerry Snead of Mountain Creek Volunteer Fire Department appeared before the Board to provide additional information regarding the request by Mountain Creek for county funding assistance to enable the purchase of a new fire truck.*

*Mr. Snead advised that homeowners would realize a 26% reduction in insurance rates if the fire department rating is reduced. Mr. Snead advised that it is 18 miles to their station, and there were more than 100 calls last year. Mr. Snead stated that a grant application has been filed with the Department of Insurance for funding assistance.*

*Commissioner Maske confirmed that the grant to the Department of Insurance requires a dollar for dollar match.*

*Commissioner Dillman thanked County Manager Haynes for helping Mountain Creek to submit the grant application by the March 1 deadline.*

*Commissioner Maske asked when the grant might be approved, and Mr. Snead advised in May.*

*Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the grant, if approved, would be used for purchase of new equipment.*

*Commissioner Dillman confirmed that the grant could be filed each year.*

*Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Snead for the updated information and advised that the Mountain Creek request would be considered during the budget process.*

**ITEM NO. 11 – CONSENT AGENDA**

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

A) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PLANNING RETREAT OF JANUARY 16, 2007; REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2007; AND REGULAR MID-MONTH MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2007 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK FOR CONSIDERATION**

B) **TAX RELEASES TOTTALLING \$33,681.09 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTTALLING \$10,852.27 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES BY REFERENCE.**

C) **APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVISION TO APPROPRIATE \$32,000.00 IN SOUTH CENTRAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH FUNDS FOR “BABY THINK IT OVER” PROGRAM**

**Revenue:**

**Local Health Into the Mouths of Babes Acct. # to be Established \$32,000.00**

**Expenditures:**

**Local health Into the Mouths of Babes Acct. # to be Established \$32,000.00**

D) **APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVISION TO APPROPRIATE \$6,430.26 IN ADDITIONAL FOOD & LODGING SERVICES FUNDS**

**Revenue:**

**Food & Lodging State Reimbursement 115187-333106 Increase by \$6,430.26**

**Expenditures:**

**Food & Lodging – Salaries-Regular 115187-4100 Increase by \$3,430.26  
- Office Supplies 115187-4210 Increase by \$3,000.00  
\$6,430.26**

E) **APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR VEHICLE PURCHASE**

**Expenditures:**

**114395-5105 Vehicles Increase by \$25,000.00  
114395-5100 Equipment Decrease by \$ 5,000.00**

**Revenues:**

**119900-399001 Fund Balance Appropriated Decrease by \$20,000.00**

**ITEM NO. 12 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO DECLARE SOCIAL SERVICES  
MITA COPIER AS SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR TRADE-IN**

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution to declare a Mita Copier at the Department of Social Services as surplus property for trade-in:*

**RESOLUTION  
TO DECLARE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES EQUIPMENT  
AS SURPLUS COUNTY PROPERTY  
FOR DISPOSAL**

*WHEREAS, it has been determined that the following equipment is no longer beneficial to the operations of the Richmond County Department of Social Services:*

**MITA DC-1460 COPIER**

*WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners is hereby requested to authorize disposal of said equipment for trade-in value toward the purchase of a new copier in accordance with the requirements and procedures for disposal of county property as set forth in North Carolina General Statute 160A-266.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above listed equipment is hereby declared as surplus county property by official action of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Manager is hereby authorized to dispose of said equipment as described herein in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-266.*

*This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007.*

**ITEM NO. 13 – REQUEST BY TAX ADMINISTRATOR TO ESTABLISH A DATE FOR  
2007 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW MEETING**

*County Manager Haynes advised that in accordance with General Statute requirements, the board must hold Board of Equalization and Review Meetings after the first Monday in April but not later than the first Monday in May, and that as many of these meetings as are needed may be held to hear tax appeals.*

*The Board discussed several dates as options for an Equalization and Review Meeting, and a motion was offered by Commissioner Maske to reschedule the Mid-Month Regular Meeting for Monday, April 23 at 6:00 P.M., and then to follow the Regular Meeting with the Board of Equalization and Review Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ussery and carried unanimously.*

**ITEM NO. 14 – REQUEST BY TOWN OF ELLERBE TO EXTEND CURRENT CONTRACT BETWEEN ELLERBE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND RICHMOND COUNTY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007**

*County Manager Haynes advised that as an oversight, the Fire Protection Contract with the Town of Ellerbe was not renewed, and he and the Mayor had agreed that the current contract could be carried through until June 30, 2007 and then renewed for the coming fiscal year.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved extension of the current Fire Protection Contract with the Town of Ellerbe through June 30, 2007.*

**ITEM NO. 15 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF 2007-2008 APPLICATION FOR CONTINUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

*County Manager Haynes referred to the 2007-2008 Application for continued funding of the Criminal Justice Partnership Program, advising that the CJP Program had been funded through the grant for approximately 10 years with no matching funds required.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman to approve the 2007-2008 CJPP Application for Continuation of Funding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried.*

**ITEM NO. 16 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO PEE DEE REGION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*Chairman Robinette advised that there have been two nominations to fill a vacancy on the Pee Dee Region Workforce Development Board – Dr. Diane Honeycutt and Mrs. Svea Strong. Chairman Robinette called for a show of hands vote on the two nominations:*

*6 Votes For Dr. Diane Honeycutt: Commissioners Maske, Garner, Ussery, Watkins, Wilson, and Chairman Robinette*

*1 Vote for Mrs. Svea Strong: Commissioner Pam Dillman*

**ITEM NO. 17 – CONSIDERATION OF REAPPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATOR**

*By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board reappointed Mr. William Braden as Animal Cruelty Investigator for the Humane Society of Richmond County.*

**ITEM NO. 18 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR ELEVATED TANKS TO SERVE RITZCRAFT, VIKING POOLS, AND TRINITY WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS**

*Director of Community Services B. K. Jones asked that the Board consider award two bids – one for raising the Hylan Park Tank to meet water demands for Trinity Manufacturing; and one for construction of a 750,000 gallon elevated tank to serve Viking Pools.*

*Mr. Jones recommended award of the bid for raising the Hylan Park Tank to serve Trinity to low bidder R. E. McLean Tank Co. for \$578,000.00.*

*Mr. Jones recommended award of the bid to construct the 750,000 gallon water storage tank to serve Viking Pools to Phoenix Fabricators as low bidder at \$1,187,715.00.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to accept the recommendation to award the bids to low bidders R. E. McLean and to Phoenix Fabricators as recommended.*

*A motion was then offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve a Budget Amendment in the amount of \$139,170.00 to appropriate funds for the Viking/Trinity Water Improvements Project.*

**ITEM NO. 19 – CONSIDERATION OF OFFER FROM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT ON U.S. HIGHWAY 1 NORTH**

*Director of Community Services B. K. Jones advised the Board that the Department of Transportation has offered \$68.57 to purchase 120.3 sq. ft. of land owned by the County in the vicinity of Mt. Olive Church Road and \$243.94 for a temporary construction easement.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the offer of \$325.00 from D.O.T. for the purchase of land and a temporary construction easement.*

**ITEM NO. 20 - REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER RESTRICTED SALES TAX REVENUE TO INCREASE SCHOOLS CAPITAL OUTLAY – SCHOOL FACILITIES PLAN**

*County Manager Haynes advised that sales tax funds for the schools are not appropriated the beginning of the budget year, but as more sales tax has come in for the schools, the budget must be amended so that the schools can draw down the funds. Mr. Haynes asked that the Board approve a Budget Amendment to appropriate \$500,000.00 in sales tax funds for the schools.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Budget Amendment as recommended.*

**ITEM NO. 21 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF UPDATES IN GIS PROGRAM BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG**

*Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that he had two items to present to the Board - a GIS presentation, and a request for the Board to reconsider Case #22 in the East Rockingham Initiative, which had been ordered for condemnation during the February 5 meeting. Mr. Armstrong advised that the new property owner, Mr. England, has offered to purchase the property and bring it up to code standards. Mr. Armstrong advised that staff had agreed to withhold demolition pending Mr. England's acquisition of the property, and he asked if the Board would like to rescind the original demolition order.*

*Commissioner Ussery preferred that the property be repaired rather than demolished if possible, but he felt that a list of work to be performed in order to bring the property up to code standards should be required of Mr. England by the Board's next meeting.*

*Mr. Armstrong advised that the new property owner, Mr. England, had just obtained the property that day. Mr. Armstrong concurred that Mr. England should provide a timeline on completion of the work and that the property should be secured for safety reasons immediately.*

*Commissioner Watkins asked who determines standards for code, and went on to state that the property owner should be given a list of requirements to bring the property up to code and to make it safe.*

*Mr. Armstrong advised that the Building Inspector and the Code Enforcement Officer would determine code standards.*

*Commissioner Dillman felt that the new property owner should be allowed 30 days to make the necessary repairs.*

*Commissioner Ussery offered a motion to suspend enforcement of the demolition order issued in February for 30 days on East Rockingham Initiative Case #22. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried.*

*Mr. Armstrong then demonstrated the updated GIS presentation, advising that the updates would soon be available to the public on the County web site.*

*Following the GIS presentation, Commissioner Dillman commented on the value of the GIS to Economic Development, and Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Armstrong for the presentation.*

### **ITEM NO. 22 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO**

*Director of Development Rick Sago referenced the public hearing held earlier in the meeting on proposed incentives for an expansion of Laticrete. Mr. Sago made the official announcement of the Laticrete expansion, noting that Laticrete has only been in Richmond County since 2005, but the company is expanding its customer base and is committed to Richmond County.*

*In discussion of the recent announcement by Hanes Brands to close the local plant, Mr. Sago advised that the Governor's Rapid Response Team visited Hanes Brands on March 1 to meet with management to discuss options and plans to meet with employees on March 15 to discuss state assistance. Mr. Sago went on to advise that 92 Hanes employees are eligible for retirement, and another 14 workers will be moved to the Rockingham-West warehouse.*

*Mr. Sago advised that on February 23 he and County Manager Haynes met with the Pee Dee Electric Board at Hinson Lake to discuss their contributions to Economic Development. Mr. Sago advised that he has worked closely with Bruce Simmons and others at Pee Dee Electric, and the company seems receptive to participation in a fourth shell building project.*

*April 12 at 11:30 A.M. has been announced as the date and time for the groundbreaking ceremony for BST at the Burlington Industries Plant, and Mr. Sago advised that invitations will*

*be sent for the ceremony to welcome this \$35,000,000.00 investment and 200 new jobs in Richmond County.*

*In continuing his report, Mr. Sago advised that he has a meeting scheduled the next day with the CSX Economic Development representative.*

*Mr. Sago referred to a USA Today article concerning green power from renewable sources, and he advised that the Legislature is now working on regulated utilities to purchase from renewable sources. Recently, a group made a presentation at Cooperative Extension on January 18 that on a plant that converts chicken litter into electricity. Mr. Sago advised that this company has a facility in England and in Minnesota, and such a plant represents a \$200,000,000.00 investment and 200 full-time jobs and 100 part-time. In further discussion, Mr. Sago advised that he and the County Manager had met with representatives of this company and attended another meeting in February, and then the company's engineers visited the County March 1. Mr. Sago advised that the company would like to make a presentation in Richmond County during the April 2 Regular Meeting. Mr. Sago noted that the company would like to make this a very public process and would explain how such a facility would address litter management and provide an alternative energy source.*

*Commissioner Ussery inquired about the volume of litter for such a facility and where it might come from, and Mr. Sago advised that the company intends to build 3 facilities in North Carolina. Mr. Sago went on to state that the Legislature is pushing for this kind of alternative source for power and that eventually utilities will be forced to go in this direction.*

*By consensus, the Board agreed for the company to make a public presentation during the April 2 Regular Meeting.*

**ITEM NO. 23 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES**

*County Manager Haynes mentioned with regret the death earlier in the day of former county employee Tim Benson, who is husband of Deputy Finance Officer Janis Benson.*

*Mr. Haynes reported from the Solid Waste Report for February, noting that two illegal dump sites were investigated; 48 hours of Community Service time were utilized 12 tons of litter was picked up along roadsides; 82 bags of litter were picked up by our employee; and 5 people were found guilty of littering violations.*

*Mr. Haynes discussed a recent meeting that the Water Committee had with residents of Old Cheraw Highway, and he noted that Certified letters have been mailed to these residents to make them aware of options for paying for waterline extension to this area. Mr. Haynes stated that it had been emphasized to these citizens that the water system is not supported by tax dollars. Mr. Haynes noted that return envelopes were provided and responses have been requested by April 2.*

*Mr. Haynes noted that the tax collection rate through February is 91.14% compared to last year's rate at this time of 90.25%; which equates to \$150,000.00 in additional income.*

*In discussion of Medicaid relief, County Manager Haynes advised that NCACC has settled on a push for Medicaid relief during this session of the Legislature which would request setting a cap*

at last year's level. There has also been discussion of targeting relief for the top 20 or 30 poorest counties. In discussion of other alternative revenue sources that could be made available to counties through local options and pending General Assembly approval, a 1% local option land transfer tax has been discussed, as well as a local option sales tax, and a statewide referendum on a bond issue for school facility needs. Mr. Haynes referred to sample resolutions provided by NCACC in support of these options for counties to consider. In discussion of the land transfer tax option, Mr. Haynes advised that based on last year's land transfers, such as a 1% local option real estate transfer tax would generate \$1,000,000.00 in Richmond County.

Mr. Haynes offered further remarks on the various revenue options offered for discussion by NCACC, and he advised that larger counties sometimes are still not too concerned about Medicaid because there are more pressing needs for infrastructure. The options proposed by NCACC would offer something for all counties, but counties won't know anything definite on any of the options until June or later, pending action by the Legislature.

Commissioner Ussery noted that the Governor has come out for the first time in favor of Medicaid relief for counties.

In further discussion of the land transfer tax, Commissioner Maske asked if this would be implemented by referendum or at option of county boards of commissioners. Mr. Haynes felt that it could be implemented by option of boards of commissioners.

Commissioner Dillman felt that the land transfer tax would be a good source of revenue.

Commissioner Dillman then offered a motion to write a letter in support of NCACC revenue options offered for consideration by counties, pending General Assembly action. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried.

#### **ITEM NO. 24 – OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **A) DISCUSSION OF MARCH 20 MID-MONTH MEETING LOCATION**

##### **NOTE: DOBBINS HEIGHTS (INSTEAD OF HOFFMAN) IS THE MUNICIPALITY THAT HAS OFFERED TO HOST THE FIRST “ON THE ROAD” MEETING”**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to hold the Board's Regular Mid-Month Meeting on March 20, 2007 at 12:00 Noon at the Town of Dobbins Heights in response to the Town's invitation to host this meeting.

Commissioner Dillman suggested that the “on the road” meetings that the Board may host throughout the County be televised, if feasible.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske to check on the possibility of televising meetings held in various municipalities in the county. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner. Commissioner Ussery noted that televising these meetings might defeat the purpose of having an open forum type meeting in the communities. The motion carried unanimously.

*Commissioner Dillman reported 100% participation by North Carolina counties in attending the recent NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. Commissioner Dillman advised that she had volunteered to serve on NACo committees while attending the meeting.*

*Commissioner Dillman suggested that the Board consider writing a letter to Scotland County as requested by Mr. McRae to voice opposition to the proposed Scotland County landfill.*

*Commissioner Dillman then offered a motion to write a letter to Scotland County in opposition to the proposed landfill site there. The motion died for lack of a second.*

*Commissioner Watkins mentioned that he serves as a non-voting liaison on the Workforce Development Board, and he suggested having the Director attend a meeting to explain what they do. Commissioner Watkins provided copies of the Pee Dee Region Workforce Annual Report for each board member.*

*Commissioner Watkins also mentioned that he serves as board member for Lumber River Council of Governments, and he advised of a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 15 at Lumber River COG offices designed especially for newly elected officials.*

*There being no further business for discussion, a motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.*

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