

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

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2007 with the following present: Vice-Chairman John B. Garner; Commissioners Pamela N. Dillman, Jimmy L. Maske, Thad Ussery, J. C. Watkins, and Paul Wilson, Jr.

Chairman Kenneth R. Robinette had an out of town business obligation and was unable to attend.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman John B. Garner at 6:30 P.M.

**ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION BY REV. COLIN SHAW OF PARK AVENUE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND BEREAVEMENT COUNSELOR WITH RICHMOND
COUNTY HOSPICE**

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Colin Shaw of Park Avenue Presbyterian Church and Bereavement Counselor with Richmond County Hospice.

ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commissioner Ussery requested to abstain from voting on Item No. 19, and Vice-Chairman Garner requested abstention from voting on Item No. 6. The motion carried unanimously with the abstentions noted and approved by the Board.

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

**A) APPEARANCE BY MR. THADDAUS MUMFORD TO EXPRESS CONCERN
ABOUT COURTHOUSE SECURITY (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)**

Mr. Thaddaus Mumford appeared before the Board to discuss court house security and the fact that he is assigned a Sheriff's Department escort whenever he enters the court house. Mr. Mumford referred to specific dates that he had visited the court house to conduct business and advised that he had filed a complaint with the Sheriff's Department about his being escorted through the court house. Mr. Mumford asked that the Board investigate this matter and why he has been treated this way.

Vice-Chairman Garner thanked Mr. Mumford for coming.

**ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT FOR CLOSE-OUT OF
RICHMOND COUNTY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR P & P DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, INC.**

Vice-Chairman Garner declared the public hearing for public input on the close-out of the CDBG Economic Development Grant for P&P Distributing open at 6:40 P.M.

Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley advised that the County had received \$95,000.00 in CDBG funds for a water line in Richmond County Industrial Park, and that the purpose of this hearing was to close out the CDBG-ED Grant for P&P Distributing Company, Inc. Ms. Ridley stated that the grant funding was used for installation of 5,800 lineal ft. of water line, and that the activity of infrastructure, and the business benefitting from installation of the water line is P&P Distributing. However, Ms. Ridley noted that P & P has not met the job quota requirement of the grant, so the State is closing out the grant contingent on creation of the required number of jobs. The project would therefore continue to be monitored.

Vice-Chairman Garner opened the floor for additional speakers.

There were no other speakers, and the hearing was declared closed at 6:42 P.M. by a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried.

ITEM NO. 5 – APPEARANCE BY NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DIRECTOR CLINTON MCRAE TO REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF FARM-CITY WEEK PROCLAMATION

Cooperative Extension Director Clinton McRae appeared before the Board in behalf of the Farm-City Week Planning Committee. Mr. McRae discussed the activities and events planned for Farm-City Week, beginning with a parade on Saturday, November 17; Farmers Luncheon on Monday, November 19 with Chamber Director Emily Tucker as guest speaker; Farm-City Banquet on Tuesday evening, November 20 at the Cole Auditorium, with Dr. Wanda Sykes of NCSU as keynote speaker; and ending with the 4-H Youth Cotton-Picking Contest on Wednesday, November 21.

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following Proclamation designating November 17-21, 2007 as Farm-City Week:

**PROCLAMATION
RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FARM-CITY WEEK 2007 - NOVEMBER 17 – 21, 2007
“GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER”**

WHEREAS, the growth and development of the County and the well-being of all of its citizens are dependent upon cooperation and exchange between the two essential environments of our society: farmers and city people; and

WHEREAS, the complexities of their individual problems and the divergence of their activities may lead to a widening gap of misunderstanding; and

WHEREAS, any gap or misunderstanding must be eliminated, and each group must understand the other if our American way of life is to endure; and

WHEREAS, FARM-CITY WEEK provides an unparalleled experience for farm and city people to become better acquainted, and thus the significance of the 2007 theme for Farm-City Week “Growing Closer Together.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John B. Garner, Vice-Chairman, of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the period of November 17 through 21, 2007 to be FARM-CITY WEEK, and I do further call upon all seminars, pageants, fairs, and civic and social events associated with a successful FARM-CITY WEEK in Richmond County.

Adopted this 5th day of November, 2007.

Vice-Chairman Garner noted that the Greater Gospel Lighthouse event would be on the same evening as the Farm-City Banquet.

Mr. McRae thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear and he presented a gift to each Board member in behalf of NC State and Extension.

ITEM NO. 6 – APPEARANCE BY TAX ADMINISTRATOR BUTCH GREENE TO REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HAMLET IN ACCORDANCE WITH N. C. G.S. 105-282.1 (a.1)

Tax Administrator Butch Greene advised the Board that First Presbyterian Church of Hamlet has requested tax exemption status, and that the Board does have authority under G.S. 105-282.1 (a.1) to grant the late filed exemption. Mr. Greene advised that Mr. Jimmy Quick was present to represent the church.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery and seconded by Commissioner Maske to grant tax exempt status as filed by First Presbyterian Church of Hamlet. The motion carried by the following vote, with Commissioner Garner abstaining as a member of the church:

FOR: Commissioners Ussery, Maske, Robinette, Watkins, Wilson, and Dillman

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTION: Commissioner Garner

ITEM NO.7 – APPEARANCE BY MR. PAUL PARKER OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MOORE COUNTY TO REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR COUNTY APPOINTMENT TO HABITAT FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Parker of Habitat for Humanity of Moore County appeared before the Board to request that the Board make an appointment to a Habitat Committee to be comprised of representatives from each municipality and one from the County. Mr. Parker advised that there had been a change since the agenda had been printed in that the Board is asked to appoint a Commissioner to serve on this committee rather than soliciting applications from the public. Mr. Parker emphasized that the mission of Habitat is to provide decent and affordable housing, and he advised that the organization is seeking land on which to build.

Commissioner Dillman thanked Mr. Parker for his presentation.

Vice-Chairman Garner confirmed that Mr. Parker was requesting that the Board of Commissioners appoint a member of the Board to the committee. Vice-Chairman Garner then asked if the Board might have until the next month's meeting to consider the appointment.

Commissioner Watkins noted that Habitat homes will go on the tax books once built, and Mr. Parker added that the entire community benefits, as these families contribute to the local economy.

Commissioner Dillman recommended Chairman Robinette to serve on the Habitat Committee. By consensus, the Board agreed that a decision on this appointment should not be made until Chairman Robinette is present.

ITEM NO. 8 – REPORT AND UPDATE ON INITIATIVES BY BRAC REGIONAL TASK FORCE

BRAC Regional Task Force Executive Director Paul Dordal and BRAC Regional Planner Donald R. Belk of Fort Bragg appeared before the Board to update the Board on BRAC initiatives. Mr. Dordal narrated a Powerpoint presentation which described in detail unified, long-range planning efforts which will greatly impact and benefit an 11-county region and Fort Bragg. Mr. Dordal advised that a \$5,000,000.00 grant has been awarded for BRAC, and he emphasized that training people to fill the many jobs that will be created and assessing strategies of the workforce will be an important part of BRAC planning. Integration of economic development and workforce development were emphasized as a priority in the BRAC planning process. A projected influx of 45,000 to 50,000 people to the region is anticipated over the next 5 years, according to Mr. Dordal's estimates. In his presentation, Mr. Dordal referred to the All American Defense Corridor, which includes Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Camp Lejeune, and Seymour Johnson.

Commissioner Dillman thanked Mr. Dordal for the informative presentation.

Vice-Chairman Garner agreed that this is a wonderful opportunity for Richmond County.

Mr. Dordal thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear, and he promised to continue to keep Director of Development Rick Sago involved in the BRAC planning process.

ITEM NO. 9 – MONTHLY PLANNING/GIS REPORT BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong reported to the Board that five requests for Conditional Use Permits would be heard by the Planning Board the following week, and the Planning Board will review a zoning text amendment for billboards. Mr. Armstrong advised that the Planning Board will also continue its discussion of East Rockingham Initiative. It was also noted by Mr. Armstrong that the GIS internet site is being enhanced and should be available by the end of the week. Mr. Armstrong advised that a GIS workshop for the public would be held later in the month.

ITEM NO. 10 – CONSIDERATION OF ATTACHMENT OF MONETARY ASSESSMENT TO PROPERTY SUBJECT TO DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL AS DESIGNATED BY RICHMOND COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

County Manager Haynes provided copies of the condemnation property files, and he advised that in October there were questions regarding the new program to remove dilapidated structures in East Rockingham and in Cordova. Mr. Haynes stressed that the focus of this initiative is to clean up uninhabitable structures. Mr. Haynes explained that once substandard structures have been identified and the property owner has been notified, then if the property owner does not make the necessary repairs to bring the property up to code, then the County has the authority to take measures necessary to abate the issue. Mr. Haynes stated that he could find no wrongdoing on the part of staff, and that internal procedures, General Statute requirements, and all competitive bidding rules and notification procedures have been followed. Mr. Haynes went on to acknowledge that this is a new procedure for the County, and that some property owners may not have understood the legal notices when received. Of the 41 properties identified as substandard, Mr. Haynes noted that only 15 of the 41 properties were not addressed by the property owners and required additional cost to the County.

In further discussion of addressing condemned properties, Mr. Haynes advised that it seemed to be too much trouble for volunteer fire departments to burn these structures due to their own guidelines and assigning volunteer firemen to do the burning. Mr. Haynes emphasized that communication in this process is critical, and the County has made an effort to save property owners some money by not requiring the owners to pay the tipping fees. Mr. Haynes explained that the computer system for the landfill would not allow for waiving the tipping fees, but these fees could be charged off to the Cole Foundation grant. Mr. Haynes advised that he would like to resolve the tipping fee questions, as estimation of these fees on the first Assessment Roll resulted in fee discrepancies charged to property owners. Mr. Haynes recommended that landfill tipping fees be removed from each of the properties, and this would significantly reduce the assessment to the property owners by approximately half of the original amount. Mr. Haynes added that at anytime during this process the homeowner can stop the process by demolishing the structure themselves and perhaps save some money.

Commissioner Ussery asked if the property owner is notified of the cost quoted to the County to remove the structure. Mr. Haynes advised that property owners were not notified of costs quoted for removal of structures. Commissioner Ussery suggested that property owners be notified of the cost to allow them the opportunity to remove structures at their own expense. Commissioner Ussery also suggested group bidding for removal of several houses of similar size, etc. might be more cost effective. County Manager Haynes acknowledged that asbestos abatement is costly, and he confirmed that all demolition material is taken to the Montgomery County landfill.

Commissioner Maske asked how much time a property owner has to tear down a structure once notified, and County Manager Haynes advised that after the Administrative Hearing, the property owner has 60 days to make repairs or to request an extension. Mr. Haynes added that many property owners did not attend the hearing. Commissioner Maske asked that the contractor who removes structures be required to level lots.

Commissioner Watkins asked that even if bids are grouped, could the contractor still itemize costs for each individual property owner. Mr. Haynes agreed that this is a problem and that costs may go back to the owner.

Commissioner Ussery suggested pricing of the demolition by cubic feet.

Commissioner Maske emphasized the need to notify homeowners of the cost of demolition.

Commissioner Ussery suggested that perhaps fire departments might be willing to burn structures if they were paid.

Commissioner Dillman stressed the importance of homeowners communicating with the County if they intend to make necessary repairs.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery to make the recommended adjustments in this assessment roll of 15 properties only. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maske. Vice-Chairman Garner asked County Manager Hayes if after the cost of tipping fees is drawn from the grant funds, would this slow down the process. Mr. Haynes advised that there is adequate funding for 3 to 4 more years of work. Vice-Chairman Garner asked County Attorney Futrell how much time is involved after a lien is placed on a property before it can be sold. County Attorney Futrell advised that 30 days must lapse before properties can be sold.

The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 11 – REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE IV (FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE) OF RICHMOND COUNTY CODE

The Public Hearing to consider amendment to Chapter 20, Article IV – Flood Plain Ordinance, was declared open by Vice-Chairman Garner at 7:33 P.M.

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that the Board had acted on this item during the previous month's meeting, and that the State has meanwhile made date and reference changes in the ordinance. Mr. Armstrong advised that therefore further amending the ordinance would be necessary to make the corrections as cited by the State.

There were no other speakers, and the hearing was declared closed at 7:35 P.M. by Vice-Chairman Garner.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to approve the recommended amendments to Chapter 20, Article IV of Richmond County Code.

ITEM NO. 12 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO

Director of Development Rick Sago advised the Board that Andy Hillenburg had closed on the purchase of North Carolina Speedway last week, and he has racing dates already scheduled. Mr. Sago advised that he had visited Mr. Hillenburg's racing shops earlier in the day and attended a meeting at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Mr. Sago made reference to the BRAC presentation earlier in the meeting, and he advised that he is a member of the Workforce Steering Group which will meet for the first time the next day at Fort Bragg.

Mr. Sago referred to the recent Progress Energy announcement on October 29 of plans to expand the plant and transmission line to Cumberland County. Mr. Sago emphasized that this \$750,000,000.00 investment will make this facility the third largest power plant in the region and will significantly increase Richmond County's tax base. Mr. Sago advised that he and the County Manager had first started working with Progress Energy in 1999 on plans for this project. Mr. Sago noted that this investment by Progress Energy represents \$3,000,000.00 in additional tax revenues for Richmond County, making Progress Energy the largest taxpayer in the County. In further discussion of the additional tax base, Mr. Sago pointed out that the amount of taxes generated by this project would be the equivalent of 5,400 new houses added to the tax books. Mr. Sago also pointed out that this kind of utility expansion and increase in tax base requires no additional drain on infrastructure. In comparison of industrial announcements in North Carolina, Mr. Sago pointed out that the Progress Energy announcement rivals the recent Google announcement in Caldwell County, but the Progress Energy project did not require any local incentives. Mr. Sago added that the Touchstone Energy plant would become operational later this year.

Commissioner Ussery noted that Union and Hoke Counties are suffering from housing growth and the demands that residential growth places on the County's infrastructure.

Commissioner Dillman confirmed that no local incentives were required for the Progress Energy expansion. Mr. Sago advised that of the top 10 industry announcements made in North Carolina this year, two of them were in Richmond County.

Commissioner Maske reiterated that no infrastructure would be required for this project, and that the water and natural gas line extensions necessary for the first phase of this project were installed by Progress Energy several years ago.

Commissioner Watkins asked if Progress Energy would use more water, and Mr. Sago advised that they would use mostly settled water up to 4.5 to 5 million gallons per day. Mr. Sago added that most of the water is recycled.

Vice-Chairman Garner commended Mr. Sago and County Manager Haynes for their hard work on this project.

ITEM NO. 13 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES

In continued discussion of the Progress Energy expansion announcement, Mr. Haynes noted that many local people and contractors will be employed by the Progress Energy project – possibly as many as 500 jobs. Mr. Haynes noted that the estimated completion date of the project is mid-2011 for the actual start-up date, but there may be some effect on the tax books by 2009-2010. Mr. Haynes advised that if this tax base were on the books now, the current tax rate could be .81 per \$100.00 of valuation.

Mr. Haynes advised that litter is still being picked up in the County, and 60 hours of Community Service labor was used in the previous month.

Mr. Haynes reported that the Veterans Service Department had 205 contacts in October, 178 of which were walk-ins.

In discussion of tax collections, Mr. Haynes noted that the collection rate in October was 17.2%; slightly down from the 17.6% collection rate in 2006.

Mr. Haynes discussed the Governor's attempt to enforce statewide water restrictions, and he urged citizens to conserve water on a voluntary conservation basis now. Mr. Haynes noted that if mandatory restrictions were enforced in Richmond County, industries would be impacted immediately. In further discussion of water usage, Mr. Haynes advised that a minimum of 1,200 cubic ft. per second of water flows over Blewett Falls Dam, and usage is estimated at 4.5 to 5 cubic ft. per second. Fortunately, Mr. Haynes advised that the Pee Dee River Basin seems to be stable right now and he would not want to impose any water restrictions at this time that would negatively impact industry.

ITEM NO. 14 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2007 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK FOR REVIEW**
- B) TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$15,163.53 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$2,168.19 FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES BY REFERENCE.**
- C) APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET**

Revenue:

Family Planning	State Reimb. 115130-333010	Increase by	\$812.00
------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------	-----------------

Expenditures:

Family Planning	Drug Supplies 115130-4225	Increase by	\$812.00
------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------	-----------------

- D) APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF WIC FUNDING**

Revenue:

WIC-General Admin.	115140-335002	Decrease by	(\$2,390.00)
WIC-Client Services	115141-333039	Increase by	400.00
WIC-Breast Feeding	115142-333042	Increase by	1,740.00
WIC-Nutrition	115143-333045	Increase by	250.00

-0-

Expenditures:

WIC-General Admin:

Salaries: Regular	115140-4100	Decrease by	(\$1,860.00)
FICA	115140-4110	Decrease by	(530.00)

WIC-Client Services:

Office Supplies	115140-4210	Increase by	400.00
------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------

WIC-Breast Feeding:

Office Supplies	115142-4210	Increase by	1,740.00
------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	-----------------

WIC-Nutrition:

Office Supplies	115143-4210	Increase by	<u>250.00</u>
			-0-

ITEM NO. 15 – CONSIDERATION OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved an Interlocal Agreement between Richmond County Board of Commissioners and Richmond County Board of Education, which County Manager Haynes advised would allow the County to apply for and obtain all sales tax monies that are expended for school capital projects. Mr. Haynes also noted that the agreement also deeds school properties to Richmond County prior to work beginning at the following schools, and that the Board of Commissioners would in turn agree to lease these properties back to the Board of Education for \$1.00 per year: West Rockingham Elementary School; Fairview Heights Elementary School; Roberdel Children’s Center; and Hoffman School.

ITEM NO. 16 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF SOLID WASTE BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TRANSFER STATION PAVING

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones requested Board approval of a Solid Waste Budget Amendment to transfer funds for Solid Waste paving to Solid Waste Operations necessary for paving of the transfer station area. Mr. Jones noted that more paving work was required than first estimated, and the current pavement at the transfer station has been there for 14 years.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve the following Budget Amendment:

Expenditures:

Capital Outlay-Improvements	654720-5140	Increase by	\$95,000.00
Capital Outlay-Improvements	654710-5140	Decrease by	\$95,000.00

ITEM NO. 17 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF AIRPORT HANGAR FEE SCHEDULE

Director of Community services B. K. Jones advised the Board that construction of 10 nested T-Hangars is planned at the airport, and ideally, this will be a self-funded investment since the cost of construction will be paid back over time in rental fees and in more planes being based in the County. Mr. Jones advised that he has researched rental charges at surrounding county airports, and he would therefore recommend that Richmond County charge \$225.00 per month. Mr. Jones further advised that three or four larger hangars are planned, and he recommended that the Manager be authorized to set fees for those hangars based on demand. In further discussion, Mr. Jones explained that hangars would be leased to tenants on an annual basis with renewable leases each year, and based on a 20-year payback.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve airport hangar fees at \$225.00 per month. Commissioner Wilson noted that this is certainly a reasonable fee.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that there are currently four older hangars at the airport and they are leased for \$150.00 per month.

Commissioner Dillman stressed the importance of the appearance of the airport, and the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 18 – REQUEST FOR BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE PROPERTY AT EASTERN END OF RUNWAY AT RICHMOND COUNTY AIRPORT

County Manager Haynes advised that he had planned for several years to purchase property at the eastern end of the airport runway, and he has now been able to negotiate the purchase of this property, which is two small houses. Mr. Haynes explained that the County has grant funds available for site work and there are adequate funds to purchase the property for \$77,636.00.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to authorize purchase of the property at the eastern end of the runway for \$77,636.00.

Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the current property owners would be allowed six months to vacate the property.

ITEM NO. 19 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR RICHMOND COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER BUILDING DEMOLITION AND PARKING LOTS

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones advised the Board that the following bids were received and opened on October 31 for building demolition and leveling and paving of parking lots for the judicial center site.

HUDSON PAVING ROCKINGHAM, NC	\$ 599,613.00
MOMENTUM CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS CHAR.LOTTE, NC	\$ 689,000.00
SEDBERRY CONSTRUCTION, INC. MT. GILEAD, NC	\$ 726,800.00
SOUTHERN BUILDERS, INC. ROCKINGHAM, NC	\$ 624,800.00
TRIANGLE GRADING & PAVING, INC. BURLINGTON, NC	\$1,096,060.00
BARNHILL CONTRACTING COMPANY FAYETTEVILLE, NC	\$ 796,281.25

Mr. Jones recommended award of the bid to Hudson Paving at \$599,613.00 as low bidder, and he advised that the projected completion date for the work is January 29, 2008.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to award the bid to Hudson Paving at \$599,613.00. Commissioner Maske asked if the funds would come from Fund Balance, and County Manager Haynes advised that the funds for this project would come from the funds budgeted for the judicial center project at budget time. Mr. Haynes further advised that the project would include paving and lighting of the parking lots, and he added that the Jenkins Gas Building would not be demolished.

Commissioner Dillman commented on the mural which had been painted on the wall of the Sheppard Auto Parts Building, expressing regret that this piece of history had been lost with the demolition of the building.

The motion to award the bid carried by the following vote:

FOR: Commissioners Wilson, Watkins, Maske, Garner, Robinette and Dillman

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTION: Commissioner Ussery

ITEM NO. 20 – CONSIDERATION OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT FROM RICHMOND COUNTY TO PROGRESS ENERGY

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved an Easement Agreement with Progress Energy to allow access to the industrial park pump station on Silver Grove Church Road.

ITEM NO. 21 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO REFLECT REDUCTION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM BUDGET

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following budget amendment to reflect a reduction in state funds for the Criminal Justice Partnership Program:

Expenditures:

114311-4470 *Substance Abuse Treatment* *Decrease by* *\$3,295.00*

Revenues:

114311-326003 *Criminal Justice Partnership* *Decrease by* *\$3,295.00*

ITEM NO. 22 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO ADJUST APPROPRIATIONS FOR JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following budget amendment necessary to reconcile the appropriation amounts for the various programs within the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Budget:

Expenditures:

114280-6111 *OJJ Youth Services (Focus)* *Increase by* *\$45,536.00*

114280-6113 *JCPC Administration* *Increase by* *\$ 10.00*

114280-6112 *Youth Entry Services* *Increase by* *\$ 4,750.00*

Revenues:

114280-333015 *CBA Funds-Youth Services* *Increase by* *\$ 316.00*

119900-399001 *Approp. Undesignated Fund Balance* *Increase by* *\$49,980.00*

ITEM NO. 23 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM DRUG CONTROL FUND FOR PURCHASE OF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLE

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following budget amendment to transfer \$26,000.00 from the Sheriff's Drug Control Fund to the Capital Outlay Vehicle line item for purchase of a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria:

Expenditures:

114315-5105 *Capital Outlay-Vehicles* *Increase by* *\$ 23,000.00*

114315-4275 *Purchases Subj. to Inventory* *Increase by* *\$ 3,000.00*

Revenues:

114315-5105 *Drug Control Equipment: Vehicles* *Decrease by* *\$ 26,000.00*

ITEM NO. 24 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR AERIAL ORTHO PROJECT AND TO RECONCILE ANNUAL BUDGET WITH MULTI-YEAR PROJECT FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following budget amendment to appropriate funds designated for the Aerial Ortho Photo Project, which were approximately \$20,000.00 less than had been originally designated for the project and set aside in Appropriated Fund Balance:

Expenditures:

119800-8170 Transfer to Aerial Ortho Project Increase by \$68,126.29

Revenues:

119800-399204 Approp. Designated Fund Balance-Aerial Ortho Increase by \$68,126.29

ITEM NO. 25 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO DECLARE FINANCE OFFICE FAX MACHINE AS SURPLUS COUNTY PROPERTY FOR DISPOSAL

By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution to declare a Finance Department FAX machine as surplus county property for disposal:

**RESOLUTION
TO DECLARE FINANCE OFFICE 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 Finance Department:

SHARP FAX MACHINE MODEL 600M – SERIAL #78224020

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners is hereby requested to authorize disposal of said equipment 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 5th day of November, 2007.

ITEM NO. 26 – OTHER BUSINESS

A) REQUEST FOR BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT \$9,000.00 GRANT FROM RICHMOND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC. TO RICHMOND COUNTY AGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the Aging Services Department to accept \$9,000.00 in grant funds donated by Richmond Community Foundation, Inc. County Manager Haynes advised the Board that the grant had just been presented to Aging Services that day, and that the funds would be used to defray the cost of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party held annually.

B) PRESENTATION BY WARE BONSALL ARCHITECTS

Mr. Glenn Ware and Mr. Pete Cayado of Ware Bonsall Architects presented changes to the judicial center as had been requested by the Board at the previous meeting. Mr. Cayado called the Board's attention to the model of the building, which now included a pitched roof and arched windows. Mr. Cayado and Mr. Ware discussed the changes to the model and provided sketches of the Judicial Center detailing the arched windows and pitched roof. Mr. Ware noted that any changes at this point would result in some delay, but they would like to have some direction from the Board so as to proceed immediately if the design changes are agreed upon.

Mr. Cayado discussed in detail the window options, noting that Option #3 would have the strongest effect and the most value with lobby and main entrance windows arched.

In discussion of the pitched roof added to the model, Commissioner Ussery noted that a hipped roof and a section of gable roof had been added. Mr. Cayado confirmed that the roof has a 3 - 12 slope, and that trusses would be used, and all existing framing would be left in place as is. Mr. Cayado advised that the peak of the new roof design would be 10 to 12 ft., and he estimated that the design change would result in a four to five week delay in the project.

Commissioner Dillman complimented the new roof design and asked if there would be additional cost. Mr. Cayado estimated an additional cost of \$250,000.00 for the pitched roof. Mr. Cayado further stated that the pitched metal roof would have a 25 to 30-year warranty and that this design would extend the life of the roof two to three times longer than a flat roof. Mr. Cayado recommended a mid-range priced roof, and he advised that ventillation would not be as expensive as attic space.

Mr. Cayado suggested that County officials should confirm the City's acceptance of the height of the new pitched roof design.

Commissioner Garner asked the estimated delay of the project and of the additional cost for the design changes. Mr. Ware estimated a four-week delay in the project and \$250,000.00 in additional cost, including the design work.

In further discussion, Commissioner Maske confirmed that arches would be added to all top row windows, and County Manager Haynes suggested that a canopy might be added over the main front entrance. Mr. Cayado confirmed that there will be guttering on the building. There was consensus that two flagpoles should be included for the building at the corner of Lee and Franklin Street.

A motion was then offered by Commissioner Ussery to approve arches for all top-floor windows and to approve the design of a sloped metal roof for the judicial center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously.

By consensus, the Board confirmed that the November 20 Mid-Month Noon Meeting would be cancelled.

Commissioner Dillman commented on the updates underway for the county web site and asked that minutes of board meetings be again included on the web site.

Commissioner Watkins mentioned a \$1.4 million agreement for the new Lumber River Council of Governments Building.

Commissioner Watkins referred to the appearance earlier in the meeting by the individual who had complained about courthouse security at the front door. Commissioner Watkins stated that while he was not asking for the Board to take action on the request made by this individual, he was concerned that because of the nature of the complaint, that the public might expect the Board to have made some kind of statement or response to the complaint.

Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the Board would have no authority to make a policy when the Judge has charged Sheriff with responsibility for Court House security.

Vice-Chairman Garner stated that the Judge had issued a court order.

Commissioner Watkins wanted to be sure that the public understood that the Board had no authority in this matter.

County Manager Haynes and the County Attorney confirmed that the Board of Commissioners had no authority over the Judge's order concerning courthouse security.

Vice-Chairman Garner encouraged the public to vote in municipal elections the next day.

There being no further business for discussion, a motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 P.M.

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