

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007, 6:30 P.M.**

*The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Meeting of December 3, 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 REV. FRANK MCOUAGE**

*The invocation was delivered by Rev. Frank McQuage.*

**ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**ITEM NO. 3 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

*Chairman Robinette asked that County Manager Jim Haynes preside over the meeting for election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.*

*County Manager Haynes opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Chairman for the coming year.*

*Commissioner Watkins nominated Commissioner Kenneth Robinette.*

*The nomination of Commissioner Robinette was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.*

*Commissioner Maske offered a motion that Commissioner Kenneth R. Robinette be elected Chairman by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ussery and carried unanimously.*

*County Manager Haynes congratulated Commissioner Robinette on his re-election as Chairman.*

**ITEM NO. 4 – ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

*County Manager Haynes then opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chairman for the coming year.*

*Commissioner Maske nominated Commissioner John B. Garner for the Office of Vice-Chairman. A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins to close the nominations and to elect Commissioner Garner as Vice-Chairman by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and carried unanimously.*

**ITEM NO. 5 – APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY**

*County Manager Haynes advised the Board that as part of the procedures during the organizational meeting, a County Attorney is to be appointed.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery to nominate Stephan R. Futrell for appointment as County Attorney for the coming year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.*

*A motion was then offered by Commissioner Maske to close the nominations and to elect Stephan R. Futrell as County Attorney by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried.*

*Chairman Robinette commended Board members and staff on the accomplishments of the past year.*

*Vice-Chairman Garner thanked the Board for their support and pledged to continue to serve to the best of his ability.*

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

*No one appeared during the Open Forum.*

**\*\*\*OMIT - ITEM NO. 7 – PRESENTATION BY THOMPSON, PRICE, SCOTT, ADAMS & CO., P.A. OF RICHMOND COUNTY'S AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2007**

**ITEM NO. 8 – PRESENTATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT BY FIRSTHEALTH-RICHMOND REGIONAL EMS DIRECTOR GRANT HUNSUCKER**

*FirstHealth-Richmond Regional EMS Director Grant Hunsucker appeared before the Board to present the annual report. Mr. Hunsucker provided statistical data, noting that a 98% satisfaction rating of services had been returned on patient surveys; four new ambulances were designed by staff and purchased this year; support of local high school athletic events continues; an advanced respiratory policy was implemented; and local EMS had a total of 7,007 responses.*

*Mr. Hunsucker concluded his remarks by thanking the Board for the privilege of serving the citizens of Richmond County.*

*There was discussion of the 15% refusal rate, which Mr. Hunsucker explained could occur whenever ambulance transport is refused upon arrival due to family members transporting patients from motor vehicle accidents, etc.*

*Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Hunsucker for the detailed report on EMS operations.*

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

*Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised the Board that the Planning Board of Adjustment will meet next Tuesday, and three Conditional Use Permits are to be considered. Mr. Armstrong further noted that 16 Conditional Use Permits have been considered during the past year.*

*Commissioner Dillman commended the Planning Board for their contributions to the County.*

**ITEM NO. 10 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO**

*Director of Development Rick Sago reported to the Board that the State has designated new Tier Rankings for counties, and Richmond County continues to be ranked as a Tier 1 County. Mr. Sago noted that all counties remained the same as the current year rankings.*

*Mr. Sago reported that the Rolls Royce facility has announced plans to locate in Virginia, and that reasons cited for not locating in North Carolina were the education system and the workforce. Mr. Sago advised that in a recent meeting a client had advised him that he had researched the County before coming for a visit.*

**ITEM NO. 11 – REQUEST BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO FOR BOARD APPROVAL TO SUBMIT CDBG PACKAGE FOR SHELL BUILDING #4**

*Director of Development Rick Sago advised that two required hearings have been conducted concerning the CDBG Application for Shell Building #4, and he now was requesting Board approval of the following items included in the application for a \$300,000.00 loan for a 5-year term and 2% interest rate, with interest only for the first two years of the loan:*

- \*Certification that application data is true and correct and authorized*
- \*Resolution authorizing application*
- \*Disclosure Report (no conflicts of interest)*
- \*Request for Release of Funds and Certification*
- \*Fair Housing Plan*
- \*Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan*
- \*Section 3 Plan for Employment Opportunities for Business and Lower Income Persons*
- \*Equal Employment Plan*
- \*Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Responsibility*

*In further discussion of the shell building project, Mr. Sago confirmed that the total project is estimated at \$800,000.00.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to approve submittal of the application with the Chairman authorized to execute the necessary documents.*

**ITEM NO. 12 – MONTHLY REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES**

*County Manager Haynes advised the Board that there are now approximately 7,000 water customers in the County water system, and water bills are being used to enclose a county newsletter each month to update citizens on what county government is doing. Mr. Haynes went on to advise that one edition of County Clips has been mailed in the past month, and such things as the Progress Energy expansion, Medicaid expense, sale of the racetrack, construction of the judicial center, tax deadlines, and county web site update were reported in the newsletter.*

*Mr. Haynes reported that through November tax collections are at 28.6%; slightly less than this time last year, and escrow payments have been made through mortgage companies and lenders. Mr. Haynes noted that the deadline for payment of 2007 Ad Valorem taxes without penalty is January 5, 2008.*

*In discussion of the Judicial Center project, Mr. Haynes reported that work continues on demolition of downtown buildings. Mr. Haynes advised that these building sites will become parking lots, and the current schedule is for bids to go out on December 27. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2008; bid opening scheduled for January 31, 2008; and possible award of bids scheduled for February, 2008.*

*Mr. Haynes reported that Senior Citizens Christmas parties will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week at Browder Park and will be hosted this year by Richmond County Aging Services Department. It was noted that Sara Lee Corporation had funded these parties for many years, and this year Richmond Community Foundation had provided grant funds for the parties.*

*Commissioner Ussery commented on the Time Warner franchise check and how new laws have affected this.*

*Chairman Robinette confirmed that the January 5 tax deadline would be advertised in the newspaper.*

*Commissioner Dillman recommended that the tax deadline be advertised on the web site.*

*Commissioner Maske inquired about the State ruling on the tax valuation for the racetrack. County Manager Haynes advised that we hope to have the valuation later in the month. County Attorney Futrell added that the State has received an unusual number of appeals, and that this likely accounts for some of the delayed response.*

**ITEM NO. 13 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE INTEREST REVENUE AND INCREASE EXPENSE FOR P&P DISTRIBUTING CDBG-ED PROJECT**

*Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley advised that last month a close-out public hearing was held on the CDBG-ED Project for installation of a water line for the P&P Distributing project. Ms. Ridley further noted that some interest was earned on this project, so this \$5,000.00 in interest should be appropriated and will close out the financial status of project.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to approve the following Budget Amendment to appropriate interest revenue on the P&P Distributing CDBG-ED Project:*

**Expenditures:**

<i>424930-4160 Professional Services</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$3,800.00</i>
<i>424930-5180 Economic Development Activity</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$1,200.00</i>

**Revenues:**

<i>424930-381001 Investment Income</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$5,000.00</i>
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**ITEM NO. 14 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR APPROVAL OF GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR 2007 CDBG SCATTERED-SITE HOUSING PROJECT**

*Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley advised the Board that the 2007 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Project was funded in October of this year, and the \$400,000.00 in grant funds should be appropriated through a Grant Project Ordinance to establish the budget for the project.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Grant Project Ordinance for the 2007 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Project. Commissioner Watkins questioned how the budget is established, and Ms. Ridley explained the Grant Project Ordinance establishes a budget to run for the life of the grant. The motion carried unanimously.*

**ITEM NO. 15 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR APPROVAL OF GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR 2007 HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT**

*Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley advised that the County had received \$96,278.83 in Housing Preservation Grant funds during recent months, and these funds will be used along with \$400,000.00 in previously received funds. Ms. Ridley requested Board approval of the Grant Project Ordinance to establish a budget for the 2007 Housing Preservation Grant.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to approve the following Grant Project Ordinance for the 2007 Housing Preservation Grant.*

**ITEM NO. 16 – 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) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MID-MONTH REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 2007 AND REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2007 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK FOR CONSIDERATION**

**B) TAX RELEASES TALLING \$32,377.44 AND TAX REFUNDS TALLING \$2,377.44 WERE APPROVED FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2007 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 REVISION TO ENSURE USAGE OF HEALTHY CAROLINIANS STATE GRANT FUNDS**

**Revenue:**

*Healthy Carolinians State Funds*    *Acct. to be established*            **\$12,048.00**

**Expenditures:**

***Healthy Carolinians***

<i>Salaries Reg.</i>	<i>115215-4100</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<b>\$ 7,182.00</b>
<i>FICA</i>	<i>115215-4110</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<b>549.00</b>
<i>Office Supplies</i>	<i>115215-4210</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<b>4,119.25</b>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>115215-4300</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<b>72.75</b>
<i>Postage</i>	<i>115215-4305</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<b>25.00</b>
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>115215-4310</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<b><u>100.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$12,048.00</b>

**D) APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS INTO DRUG CONTROL FUND**

**Expenditures:**

*Drug Control Miscellaneous*            *114315-4465*    *Increase by*    **\$ 20,000.00**

**Revenues:**

*Appropriated Fund Bal.-Drug Control*    *119900-399302*    *Inc. by*    **\$20,000.00**

**E) APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT FUNDS FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT**

**Expenditures:**

*Purch. Subj. to Inv.-DOJ Grant*            *114310-4279*    *Increase by*    **\$ 8,636.00**

**Revenues:**

*Dept. of Justice Assistance Grant*            *114310-326008*    *Increase by*    **\$13,018.00**

**ITEM NO. 17 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR PURCHASE OF SOLID WASTE  
ROLL-OFF TRUCK**

*Director of Community Services B. K. Jones advised the Board that bids for a Solid Waste Roll-Off Truck had been received and opened on November 21, 2007, and he presented the following recap of those bids:*

*Mr. Jones requested that the Board consider award of the bid to low bidder Charlotte Truck Center for \$118,989.00. Mr. Jones explained that that this vehicle would replace an older high mileage vehicle and would be used to haul waste from box sites to the landfill.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the low bid by Charlotte Truck Center in the amount of \$118,989.00 for a 2007 Freightliner truck.*

**ITEM NO. 18 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR PURCHASE OF SOLID WASTE ROAD TRACTOR**

*Director of Community Services B. K. Jones presented the following recap of bids received and opened on November 21, 2007 for a Road Tractor:*



2009. Mr. Jones provided additional details of the TIP, noting that the total of all three groups of the plan is \$10,827,716.00.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery to approve the Airport Element of the 2009-2013 TIP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner, and Commissioner Ussery asked the amount approved in the last TIP. Mr. Jones advised that the TIP is on-going, and that approximately \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00 was funded in the last program. County Manager Haynes noted that overall, the County's share of the cost of airport improvement work is approximately 5%. The motion to approve the TIP carried unanimously.

**ITEM NO. 21 – REQUEST BY FINANCE DEPARTMENT FOR BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE CAPITAL OUTLAY THRESHOLD AMOUNT AND INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR PURCHASES SUBJECT TO INVENTORY**

County Manager Haynes advised the Board that due to inflation, the Board is being asked to increase the Capital Outlay threshold amount to \$5,000.00 as a more appropriate level based on 2007 costs. Mr. Haynes also advised that the Finance Department has recommended that items categorized as Purchases Subject to Inventory be increased from the current amount of \$75.00 to \$250.00 or more.

Commissioner Ussery inquired about state guidelines, and County Manager Haynes advised that the County has actually lagged behind in these threshold amounts, and that our auditors concur with the recommendation to increase the threshold limits.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to increase the Capital Outlay and Purchases Subject to Inventory threshold amounts as recommended.

**ITEM NO. 22 – CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF HEALTH**

The Board considered the following 4 appointments to the Board of Health as recommended by the Health Director and the Board of Health:

Dr. Kevin Aiken – reappointment as Dentist representative  
Mrs. Aletha Lanier – Registered Nurse representative  
Mr. Paul Smart – Professional Engineer representative  
Dr. Ralph Souder – Veterinarian representative

Commissioner Ussery commented that Mr. Paul Smart, who has previously served on the Board of Health, is not a registered Professional Engineer, but there is only have one other P.E. in the County other than Mr. Rick Sago. Mr. Sago was not eligible for reappointment to another term, having served the maximum number of 3 consecutive terms allowed, and the other local individual who is a Professional Engineer declined to serve. Commissioner Ussery noted that the General Statutes allow appointment of an additional public member if no Professional Engineer is available to serve in this capacity. Commissioner Ussery therefore recommended that Mr. Paul Smart be appointed as a public member.

*A motion was then offered by Commissioner Ussery and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to appoint the 4 individuals recommended to serve on the Board of Health: Dr. Kevin Aiken; Mrs. Aletha Lanier, RN; Mr. Paul Smart; and Dr. Ralph Souder. Commissioner Watkins asked if appointment of a Professional Engineer is required, and Commissioner Ussery advised that yes, a P.E. is required to serve on the Board of Health if one is available, but if not, then this seat would be filled by a public member. Commissioner Ussery added that Mr. Smart has agreed to serve and that he is an engineer but not a registered P.E. Commissioner Maske confirmed that these appointments are for 3-year terms. The motion carried unanimously.*

**ITEM NO. 23 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF MS. PEGGY COVINGTON TO RICHMOND COUNTY ADULT CARE HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Ms. Peggy Covington to a one-year term on the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee.*

*Commissioner Ussery commented on the 3 remaining vacancies on this committee, and Commissioner Watkins noted that Lumber River COG Regional Ombudsman Twilla Allen solicits interested individuals to serve. Commissioner Ussery also suggested advertising for the vacant positions in the newspaper.*

**ITEM NO. 24 – CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION APPOINTEE TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE**

*There being no volunteer to serve on the Habitat for Humanity Resource Development and Fund-Raising Committee, the Board agreed by consensus to hold this appointment for consideration during the next month's meeting.*

**ITEM NO. 25 – OTHER BUSINESS**

**A) CONSIDERATION OF DECEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE**

*By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to cancel the December 18 Mid-Month Noon Meeting.*

*Commissioner Dillman questioned Item No. 26 of the November 5, 2007 Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Dillman understood the Ware Bonsall architects to indicate that the \$250,000.00 additional cost quoted to change the roof design also included the additional cost of adding arched windows. Commissioner Ussery stated that his understanding that the additional \$250,000.00 was for the change in the roof design only.*

*Commissioner Watkins advised that Habitat for Humanity will meet every Saturday to work on a house being built on Bryan Street from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. each Saturday through March.*

*Commissioner Watkins commented on the Open Forum presentation made in November concerning courthouse security, and he stated that the Board should have a policy to respond to Open Forum presenters.*

*Commissioner Dillman commented on a mayor in the County who had sent gifts to a soldier leaving for Iraq, and she urged everyone to remember those in uniform.*

*Commissioner Ussery commended the Moose Lodge and the Richmond Community Foundation for their generosity in sponsoring Christmas parties for the senior citizens in the County.*

*There being no further business for consideration, a motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 P.M.*

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