

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008, 6:30 P.M.**

*The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008 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, and J. C. Watkins.*

*Commissioner Wilson was absent due to illness.*

**ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION BY REV. GENE ALEXANDER OF FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM, NC**

*The invocation was delivered by Rev. Gene Alexander of First Assembly of God Church, Rockingham, NC.*

**ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Chairman Robinette noted that Item No. 7, the appearance by the Humane Society, should be omitted at their request, and he asked that he be permitted to abstain from voting on the Item No. 15 property matter due to a conflict of interest.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Agenda with the omission of Item No. 7 and with Chairman Robinette abstaining from voting on Item No. 15.*

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

**A) REQUESTED APPEARANCE BY MS. BARBARA JACKSON TO DISCUSS WATER TAP FEE POLICY (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)**

*Ms. Barbara Jackson thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and advised that she lives on Oak Ridge Church Road, where county water lines have recently been installed. Ms. Jackson advised that she had paid \$500.00 for a water tap, but she has a well and does not need to connect to county water at this time. Ms. Jackson went on to state that she received a county water bill in the amount of \$16.00 in December even though she has not used any county water. Ms. Jackson made reference to the County Water Installation Policy and expressed her opposition to the policy. Ms. Jackson expressed particular dissatisfaction with the portion of the policy that entitles the County to begin billing customers at the minimum rate of \$16.00 three months after taps have been purchased whether connected to the water system or not. Ms. Jackson spoke at length in opposition to the policy, describing it as immoral.*

*Chairman Robinette thanked Ms. Jackson for her comments and advised her that the county tax rate has nothing to do with the water system as she had alluded in her comments.*

*Commissioner Watkins, as Chairman of the Water Committee, responded to Ms. Jackson by explaining that the water system operates as an Enterprise Fund from the profits of the water system, and that this is completely separate from tax revenues. Mr. Watkins stressed that the*

*Water Fund is not a money-making operation, but revenues from the water system enable expansion of the system to serve more citizens as funds become available for construction of waterlines.*

**ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009 COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM APPLICATION – RICHMOND INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION**

*The advertised public hearing to receive input on the proposed 2009 Community Transportation Program Application for Richmond Interagency Transportation was declared open by Chairman Robinette at 6:45 P.M.*

*There were no speakers for or against the proposed application, and the hearing was declared closed at 6:46 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske and seconded by Commissioner Garner to authorize the 2009 Community Transportation Program Application. Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the County has budgeted matching funds for this grant, and the motion authorizing the application carried unanimously.*

**ITEM NO. 5 – PRESENTATION OF RICHMOND COUNTY'S AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2007 BY CPA ALAN THOMPSON OF THOMPSON, PRICE, SCOTT, ADAMS & CO., P.A.**

*CPA Alan Thompson, of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., presented Richmond County's audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. Mr. Thompson referred to a summary sheet in the audit report and presented an unqualified opinion on the financial statements as a whole. Mr. Thompson referenced governmental accounting standards that have been met and reported that all funds had increased significantly. Mr. Thompson concluded his presentation by offering to answer any questions that the Board may have.*

*Commissioner Dillman asked Mr. Thompson if his firm is scheduled every year for audit services. Mr. Thompson and County Manager Haynes advised that the contract is bid on a three-year rotation.*

**ITEM NO. 6 – PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT FOR RICHMOND COUNTY LIBRARIES BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR CAROL WALTERS**

*Sandhills Regional Library Director Carol Walters thanked the Board for the opportunity to appear and for their ongoing support of the libraries. Ms. Walters mentioned computer grant funds received for all 15 libraries in the system, and she introduced the new County Library Director Jessie Gibson, who provided additional statistics pertaining to the public library system.*

*Library Director Jessie Gibson also thanked the Board for their support and investment in the libraries. Mr. Gibson provided a breakdown of library funds for operations, salaries, computer technology, etc., and he finalized his report by noting that the total retail value of library services is \$2.7 million.*

*Commissioner Dillman commended the services provided by the libraries.*

**\*\*OMIT - ITEM NO. 7 – APPEARANCE BY HUMANE SOCIETY OF RICHMOND COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CANDY BACON FOR REPORT AND FUNDING REQUEST**

**ITEM NO. 8 – APPEARANCE BY SANDHILLS CENTER AREA DIRECTOR MICHAEL WATSON FOR UPDATE REPORT**

*Sandhills Mental Health Area Director Michael Watson updated the Board on recent activities and changes in the delivery of services within the mental health system. Mr. Watson reported that Sandhills Center is in excellent fiscal condition with a strong fund balance, and community mental health centers continue to operate in all counties in the region. Mr. Watson discussed Medicaid and the community support services which had become available 18 months ago and immediately resulted in \$800,000,000.00 in costs to Medicaid across the State. Mr. Watson advised that the new Secretary of Health and Human Services has eliminated many of the providers in this system, finding abuse of the system and that many services that were billed to Medicaid were unnecessary. Mr. Watson further advised that denial rates for the program have increased, all providers are being examined, and the State has requested a refund of \$6,000,000.00. Mr. Watson emphasized that all providers are being examined and that in many instances it was determined that services were provided that were not necessary. Therefore, Mr. Watson advised that the State is requesting a refund of \$6,000,000.00 and denial rates continue to increase to curtail these programs.*

*In further discussion, Commissioner Maske noted that Richmond County spent \$17,000,000.00 on Medicaid services for community support programs, and Commissioner Dillman commented that there had been 18 providers of community support services in Richmond County.*

*In conclusion of his report, Mr. Watson stressed that Sandhills Center continues to work with providers to expand good services, and to help families to navigate a very complex system.*

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

*Planning Director Jamie Armstrong requested that the Board set a date for a public hearing to consider a text amendment, RZT-2007-3, to consider regulations for outdoor advertising signs. Mr. Armstrong stated that the intent of the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment is to establish uniform regulations for installation and maintenance of billboards. In the past, such signs have been handled through Conditional Use Permits.*

*Commissioner Ussery questioned Item E of the proposed standards, which stipulates that no direct lighting is permitted. Mr. Armstrong advised that in prior cases a condition for indirect lighting was required.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to advertise a public hearing to consider proposed standards for outdoor advertisements during the February 4, 2008 Regular Meeting.*

*Mr. Armstrong then recommended Board approval of the following five Orders for Demolition and Removal of Condemned Property:*

- 1) MH-006 – Property of Clifton Snodgrass, 463 Midway Road*
- 2) MH-012–Property of James Roland Black & Martha c/o Guy Coble, 174 Center St., Cordova*
- 3) MH-013 – Property of Estate of G. W. Sills & Effie, c/o Jane Sills Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Cordova*
- 4) MH-014 – Property of Estate of G. W. Sills & Effie, c/o Jane Sills Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Cordova*
- 5) MH-015 – Property of Estate of G. W. Sills & Effie, c/o Jane Sills Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Cordova*

*Mr. Armstrong advised the Board that these properties had been identified in July as dilapidated properties, and the proper notices have been sent to property owners, but the structures have not been brought up to code. Mr. Armstrong referenced pictures of the properties, and he recommended that the Board approve the Orders to Demolish and Remove as presented.*

*Commissioner Ussery recommended that fire departments be offered the opportunity burn these structures for training purposes once asbestos, if presence determined, has been removed from the structures. Mr. Armstrong agreed that an invitation can be extended to the fire departments and interested departments could perform the burning at the discretion of the fire chiefs.*

*Commissioner Maske confirmed that bids would be received for removal of debris once the structures have been burned or demolished, and Mr. Armstrong advised that bids would be brought back to the Board of Commissioners for approval of a firm to remove debris.*

*Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the property owner would be made aware of the cost for demolition and removal of debris so as to have the option to remove the debris themselves. Mr. Armstrong assured that the property owner would have the opportunity to clear property, but once the Board has issued the Order, then staff is bound to demolish structures and remove debris as expediently as possible.*

*Commissioner Dillman asked if any responses had been received since the December letters had been sent, and Mr. Armstrong advised that Ms. Smith has responded that she would prefer that her property be burned.*

*Mr. Armstrong emphasized that it is in the best interest of the public to remove these unsafe structures.*

*Commissioner Garner suggested paying fire departments to provide this service. Mr. Armstrong advised that there is no Cole Foundation grant money available for this, but the property owner could negotiate with the fire department.*

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the following Orders for Demolition and Removal of Condemned Property as recommended by Code Enforcement: MH-006; MH-012; MH-013; MH-014; and MH-016.*

## **ITEM NO. 10 – CONSIDERATION OF STAY OF DEMOLITION ORDER**

*The Board discussed Case # ERI-022, which is property located at Safie 1<sup>st</sup> Street owned by Mr. Larry England. This property had been condemned and ordered for demolition in February 2007, but the Board had stayed the Demolition Order to allow the property owner additional time to make necessary repairs to the structure. However, Building Inspector Gary Williams stated that the foundation of this structure is not secure.*

*Property owner Larry England addressed the Board regarding the work that he has done, explaining that he had torn out the back bedroom of the house due to presence of black mold; and siding on the exterior of the house had been removed because this kind of siding is no longer available. Mr. England further accounted for delays in completing the work, advising that building materials for repairs have been stolen from the house, and he works out of town and hasn't had time to finish the work. Chairman Robinette asked Mr. England what his schedule for completion of the necessary repairs is. Mr. England estimated four to six weeks to complete plumbing repairs, and he added that he hoped to borrow money to complete the work and buy the necessary materials.*

*Chairman Robinette asked Mr. England if he had obtained permits for all of the work, and Mr. England advised that he does not yet have plumbing or electrical permits.*

*There was further discussion, and Commissioner Maske confirmed with Mr. England that in three to four months repair work should be complete.*

*Commissioner Watkins confirmed with Mr. England that he can obtain a bank loan and finish the repair work if his property is removed from the condemnation list.*

*Commissioner Dillman asked Mr. England about using the house as collateral for the loan and suggested that the lot may have value in securing the loan. Mr. England stated a value of \$1,500.00 for the lot.*

*Commissioner Dillman recommended a 30-day work schedule report to the Board.*

*Commissioner Garner questioned the number of safety issues identified on Mr. England's property, and the Building Inspector advised that securing the outside of the structure is most important, and then electrical and plumbing repairs must be addressed.*

*Code Enforcement Officer Shannon Brigman stated that there is debris around the structure, but some debris has been removed.*

*There was discussion of the possibility of extending the Stay of the Demolition Order or removal of the Condemnation Order.*

*Mr. Armstrong cautioned the Board of potential liability for the County if the Condemnation Order is removed, and he acknowledged that he did not know of a process to remove a property from a condemnation list without the structure having been brought up to code standards.*

*Commissioner Ussery emphasized the need for a commitment of definite dates for completion of the work.*

*Commissioner Garner asked Mr. Williams the term of a building permit. The Building Inspector replied that a permit is issued for six months, and Mr. England has not made a request for inspection.*

*Commissioner Watkins stressed the need for assurance that Mr. England is able to borrow the money needed to finish the house.*

*Commissioner Ussery suggested that Mr. England be required to provide a letter from the bank verifying that Mr. England can borrow the funds necessary to complete the house.*

*Commissioner Dillman suggested that Mr. England be required to provide a bank letter to the Board during the January 15 Mid-Month Meeting.*

*Mr. Armstrong suggested that the Board continue the Stay until January 15, 2008 to allow Mr. England an opportunity to present the letter from a bank and to allow staff time to work with the County Attorney to determine if a structure could be removed from the condemnation list.*

*Commissioner Ussery offered a motion to continue the Stay of the Demolition Order on the Larry England property until January 15, 2008 and for Mr. England to provide a bank letter specifying the amount that would be loaned on this property for necessary repair work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman. Commissioner Maske stressed the need for a time limit. Commissioner Ussery specified that the Stay of the Order to Demolish would only extend until January 15, 2008, and then the Board of Commissioners could take appropriate action. Commissioner Garner stressed that the Board must stand up to what is in front of them. Commissioner Dillman emphasized the need for a work schedule. Commissioner Watkins responded to Mr. England that the amount of money that he can borrow is important to the Board as assurance that the necessary repairs can be made to secure the structure.*

*The motion to continue the Stay until January 15, 2008 carried unanimously.*

#### **ITEM NO. 11 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO**

*Director of Development Rick Sago advised the Board that he continues to participate in BRAC meetings, and he updated the Board on activities that have taken place and that are scheduled at the speedway by new owner of the track, Andy Hillenburg.*

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

*County Manager Haynes reported to the Board that the advertisement for bids on the Richmond County Judicial Center would be published the next day, and the request for bids has been sent to contractors. Mr. Haynes mentioned January 17, 2008 as the date scheduled for a pre-bid meeting and January 31 as the bid opening date. Mr. Haynes also reported that grading and drainage work on the two downtown lots where demolition of structures has taken place continues, with a retaining wall to be constructed on the lot behind the courthouse.*

*Mr. Haynes reported that he and Commissioner Maske had recently attended a meeting in Raleigh concerning D.O.T. funding for road maintenance and improvements. Mr. Haynes advised that the Department of Transportation is currently undergoing reorganization due to a shortfall of funds for road maintenance and improvements. Mr. Haynes cautioned that this is an*

*issue that should be closely watched by counties, as the Legislature has approved a bill that would allow counties to participate in the cost of road construction. Mr. Haynes noted that North Carolina counties have not been involved in road maintenance since 1922.*

*Mr. Haynes reported that the year-end tax collection percentage is 16% ahead of the collection rate of the prior year due to Progress Energy having paid over \$3,000,000.00 in taxes during December.*

*In discussion of the Solid Waste Report for December, Mr. Haynes advised of 10 investigations of dump sites; 50 Community Service hours; issuance of one citation; 37 tire clean-ups; and 6.4 tons of litter cleaned up along 36 miles of roadways.*

*Mr. Haynes reported receipt of \$295,200.00 in grant funds through Congressman Robin Hayes for water expansion.*

*County Manager Haynes discussed Revaluation and advised that during coming months more information will become available, with new value information sent to property owners by late January. Mr. Haynes anticipated a 20% increase in property values.*

*Commissioner Ussery inquired about plans for the Judicial Center, and the County Manager advised that he expects to receive a complete set later in the week.*

*In discussion of the appeal of the speedway valuation, County Manager Haynes advised that the appeal has not yet been settled, and as of now, the former speedway owner has paid based on a valuation of \$4,000,000.00.*

*Commissioner Dillman advised that she had not been aware that the Register of Deeds and Tax Offices would not be moved to the new Judicial Center.*

*In discussion of Medicaid costs to be paid by the State, County Manager Haynes advised that as of yet the County has not realized any savings but he anticipated that the State would be on schedule with its commitment to absorb 25% of the cost this year and 50% the next year.*

*Commissioner Dillman inquired about loans made to businesses through the County's Revolving Loan Fund and questioned whether the County had lost money on businesses such as Golden Corral. County Manager Haynes advised that RLF loan funds had been originally funded through grant funds and replenished through payments and interest paid by recipients of the loans. Mr. Haynes emphasized that local tax dollars had not been used to make these loans and that legal steps are taken to protect the County's assets. Chairman Robinette pointed out that the intention of the Revolving Loan Fund Program had been to assist clients who do not qualify for traditional financing but meet the criteria of expanding existing businesses or creating new businesses and creating jobs in the County.*

**ITEM NO. 13 – CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2007 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK FOR CONSIDERATION**
- B) **TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$19,888.42 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$1,301.88 FOR NOVEMBER 2007 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 REVISION TO BUDGET ADDITIONAL PANDEMIC INFLUENZA FUNDS**

**Revenue:**

**Bio-Terrorism – State Reimb.      115212-341111      Increase by      \$15,000.00**

**Expenditures:**

**Bio-Terrorism – Office Supplies      115212-4210      Increase by      \$ 2,500.00**  
**- Travel      115212-4300      Increase by      5,000.00**  
**- Rental of Property      115212-4405      Increase by      5,000.00**  
**- Pur. Sub. To Inv.      115212-4275      Increase by      2,500.00**  
**TOTAL INCREASE                \$15,000.00**

- D) **APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVISION TO BUDGET ADDITIONAL TITLE X FUNDS FOR FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET**

**Revenue:**

**Family Planning-State Reimb.      115130-333010      Increase by      \$ 833.00**

**Expenditures:**

**Family Planning-Office Supplies      115130-4210      Increase by      \$ 833.00**

- E) **APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVISION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR TWO SMART START BUDGETS CONTINUED FROM 2006-2007 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BUDGET FOR SMART START BILINGUAL HEALTH CHECK COORDINATOR POSITION**

**Revenues:**

**Smart Start-Child Care Health**  
**Consultant      115208-333138      Increase by      \$20,400.00**  
**Smart Start-Dental Varnish      115200-333136      Increase by      2,200.00**  
**Smart Start-Bilingual Health**  
**Check Coordinator      115219-333142      Increase by      2,000.00**

**Expenditures:**

**Smart Start-Child Care Health Consultant**

Salaries: Regular	115208-4100	Increase by	\$ 7,125.00
FICA	115208-4110	Increase by	3,275.00
Office Supplies	115208-4210	Increase by	5,200.00
Travel & Conference	115208-4300	Increase by	4,000.00
Postage	115208-4305	Increase by	400.00
Telephone	115208-4310	Increase by	<u>400.00</u>
TOTAL			\$20,400.00

**Smart Start-Dental Varnish**

Office Supplies	115200-4210	Increase by	\$ 1,300.00
Medical Supplies	115200-4220	Increase by	300.00
Postage	115200-4305	Increase by	100.00
Telephone	115200-4310	Increase by	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL			\$ 2,200.00

**Smart Start-Bilingual Health Check Coordinator**

Office Supplies	115210-4210	Increase by	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
TOTAL			\$ 2,000.00

**F) APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVISION TO ENSURE UTILIZATION OF \$33,145.00 IN COLE FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO ENHANCE SECURITY FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS**

**Revenue:**

Local – Cole Foundation Security	Acct. # To Be Est.	Increase by	\$33,145.00
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**Expenditures:**

Local – Capital Outlay	Acct. # To Be Est.	Increase by	\$33,145.00
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**ITEM NO. 14 – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY TAX ADMINISTRATOR E. L. “BUTCH” GREENE FOR AUTHORITY TO GRANT INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN EXTENSIONS UNTIL APRIL 15, 2008 DURING TAX LISTING PERIOD**

County Manager Haynes reminded the Board that authority is granted each year for the Tax Administrator to grant individual written extensions until April 15, 2008 during the tax listing period, and he recommended that the Board again authorize the Tax Administrator to grant individual extensions as requested.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to authorize Tax Administrator E. L. Greene to grant individual written extensions until April 15, 2008 during the tax listing period.

Commissioner Dillman asked if the County could begin to accept credit cards for tax payments.

County Manager Haynes explained that there are companies that provide this service, but the County is not allowed to charge fees to those customers who opt to use credit cards. Mr. Haynes advised that the cost to the County to offer the service of using credit cards for tax payments is

2%, and this cost cannot be passed on to taxpayers. Mr. Haynes further advised that he is still in the process of exploring credit card options and will report to the Board as soon as additional information is available to him.

**ITEM NO. 15 – CONSIDERATION OF PROPERTY TRANSACTION – COUNTY ATTORNEY STEPHAN R. FUTRELL**

County Attorney Futrell presented a former owner bid of \$249.79 from Fare Enterprises for property located in Rockingham Township with a tax book value of \$4,800.00. The property was listed in 1993 to Fare Enterprises.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske and seconded by Commissioner Garner to accept the former owner bid by Fare Enterprises. Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the property had been owned by Fare Enterprises all along. The motion to accept the bid carried by the following vote, with Chairman Robinette abstaining due to conflict of interest:

FOR: Commissioners Maske, Garner, Ussery, Watkins, and Dillman

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTION: Chairman Robinette

**ITEM NO. 16 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND DESIGNATING JANUARY 21, 2008 AS COUNTY HOLIDAY**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins to adopt the following Proclamation Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and designating January 21, 2008 as a County Holiday to commemorate the life of Dr. King. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ussery. Commissioner Watkins noted that the King Holiday has been observed for almost 20 years, and Dr. King is the only American to have a day named in his honor other than a President. Commissioner Watkins advised that all activities and ceremonies planned for the holiday will be advertised, and he encouraged all to participate. The motion to adopt the following Proclamation carried unanimously:

**PROCLAMATION  
HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress, the North Carolina General Assembly, and the Richmond County Board of Commissioners have proclaimed January 21, 2008 as a legal holiday to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did work for and promote freedom, equality, justice, and peace; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King did show courage, endurance, and patience in the face of hostility, criticism, and adversity; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King's persistence was rewarded by the passage of the Civil Rights Act in the United States and in his receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we pause this day to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and promote appropriate activities to further enhance the democratic ideals and concepts of this great American.*

*Adopted this 7th day of January, 2008 in the Regular Meeting of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.*

**ITEM NO. 17 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR PURCHASE OF MATERIALS FOR WATERLINE IN SOUTHEASTERN RICHMOND COUNTY EPA PROJECT**

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board awarded the bid for 5,000 LF of waterline and appurtenances to H. D. Waterworks at a total cost of \$67,210.52 as recommended by Director of Community Services B. K. Jones. The recap of bids is as follows:*

<b>H. D. WATERWORKS.....</b>	<b>\$67,210.52</b>
<b>CAROLINA WATER SYSTEMS SUPPLY.....</b>	<b>\$73,446.14</b>
<b>RALEIGH WINWATER COMPANY.....</b>	<b>\$70,492.98</b>

**ITEM NO. 18 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO BRAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Director of Development Rick Sago advised the Board that the BRAC Board of Directors meets quarterly to oversee the work of the BRAC Committee, and currently Chairman Kenneth R. Robinette and Hoffman Councilman Daniel Kelly are serving as Richmond County's representatives.*

*Chairman Robinette expressed his desire to relinquish his seat on the Board of Directors and provide an opportunity for another board member to serve. Chairman Robinette requested that the Board appoint Commissioner Thad Ussery to the BRAC Board of Directors, as he has agreed to serve if the Board concurs.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Commissioner Thad Ussery to represent Richmond County on the BRAC Board of Directors.*

**ITEM NO. 19 – CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSION APPOINTEE TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE**

*Commissioner Maske offered a motion to nominate Commissioner Dillman to represent Richmond County on the Habitat for Humanity Resource Development and Fund-Raising Committee since she has been familiar with Habitat activities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried.*

**ITEM NO. 20 – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY EAST ROCKINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR CHANGE IN JUNE 2007 AUTHORIZATION FOR TRUCK PURCHASE**

*County Manager Haynes reminded the Board that a new truck purchase had been authorized for East Rockingham Fire Department in June 2007, and the department is now requesting*

permission to purchase a second truck that is used and valued at \$57,000.00. County Manager Haynes advised that the department has not yet purchased the new fire truck at a cost of \$196,000.00 that had been authorized in the prior fiscal year, and the department now has an opportunity to purchase a used 1994 rescue/equipment truck at a cost of \$57,000.00. Mr. Haynes advised that the fire department's auditors have confirmed the department's ability to make payments on the total cost of \$245,227.00 for the two trucks with a downpayment of \$30,000.00.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Maske to authorize East Rockingham Fire Department to purchase two trucks – a new fire truck authorized by the Board in June 2007 at a cost of \$196,000.00, and a used 1994 rescue/equipment truck at a cost of \$57,000.00. Commissioner Dillman asked if the department had applied for state grant funds through the Department of Insurance. County Manager Haynes advised that he would ask the department if they had interest in applying for grant funds. Mr. Haynes noted that some of the fire departments do not choose to apply for the grant funds due to restrictions involved. Commissioner Garner confirmed that East Rockingham has already selected the two trucks to be purchased. The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM NO. 21 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RICHMOND COUNTY OPTIONAL COVERAGE RELOCATION PLAN FOR 2007 CDBG SCATTERED-SITE HOUSING PROJECT**

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Richmond County Optional Coverage Relocation Plan for the 2007 CDBG Scattered-Site Housing Project as recommended by Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley.

**ITEM NO. 22 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RECIPIENT'S PLAN TO FURTHER FAIR HOUSING**

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing as recommended by Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley in order to comply with Title VIII Fair Housing Laws.

**ITEM NO. 23 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION PLAN FOR RICHMOND COUNTY CDBG PROJECT 07-C-1670**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to approve the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan for Richmond County CDBG Project 07-C-1670 as recommended by Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley.

**ITEM NO. 24 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RICHMOND COUNTY'S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR 2007 SCATTERED-SITE HOUSING PROJECT**

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Equal Employment and Procurement Plan for the 2007 Scattered-Site Housing Project as recommended by Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley.

**ITEM NO. 25 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF SECTION 3 PLAN FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS AND LOWER INCOME PERSONS**

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the Section 3 Plan for Employment Opportunities for Business and Lower Income Persons as recommended by Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley. Commissioner Watkins asked if much of the work is still done by local contractors, and Ms. Ridley advised that 50% of the work is done by local contractors, and a portion of the work is done by a contractor from Lumberton. Ms. Ridley noted that all contractors use local suppliers. The motion carried unanimously.*

**ITEM NO. 26 – REQUEST BY GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR SANDY RIDLEY FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF CDBG CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR RICHMOND COUNTY**

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the CDBG Citizen Participation Plan for Richmond County as recommended by Grants Administrator Sandy Ridley.*

**ITEM NO. 27 – CONSIDERATION OF LEASE-PURCHASE BIDS TO FINANCE SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR PURCHASE**

*County Manager Haynes reminded the Board that \$255,000.00 worth of Solid Waste equipment had been authorized for purchase, and the decision has now been made to lease-purchase this equipment and spread out payments. Mr. Haynes referred to the following five bids received for lease-purchase of the Solid Waste equipment:*

<b>Name of Bank</b>	<b>Amount To Be Financed</b>	<b>Term of Loan</b>	<b>Payment Frequency</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>
<b>SunTrust Equipment &amp; Leasing Corp.</b>	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	3.036%
Lawanna S. Gatton, Towson, MD	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	3.19%
<b>RBC Centura Bank</b>	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	3.57%
James Hansen, Raleigh, NC				
<b>Branch Bank &amp; Trust</b>	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	3.81%
F. Louis Loyd III, Charlotte, NC	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	3.64%
Barb Salamone, Charlotte, NC				
<b>Community One Bank</b>	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	5.99% *
Vincent F. Bateman, Rockingham	255,824.00	4 years	Semi Annual	6.290%
HQ Office-Asheboro, NC				
<b>LongLeaf Community Bank</b>	255,825.00	4 years	Semi Annual	6.45%
John Bullard, Rockingham, NC				
Butch Farrah				

*County Manager Haynes requested that the Board consider award of the lease-purchase contract for \$255,824.00 worth of Solid Waste equipment to low bidder, SunTrust Equipment & Leasing Corporation, at an interest rate of 3.036% for a term of four years.*

As recommended by the County Manager, the Board awarded the bid for lease-purchase of Solid Waste equipment to SunTrust Equipment & Leasing Corp. by a motion of Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Ussery. Commissioner Ussery confirmed that the County would borrow the funds for the lease-purchase, and County Manager Haynes advised that this would mean something on the bank's books. The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM NO. 28 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO BUDGET LOAN PROCEEDS AND PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK FOR SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND LOAN**

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Amendment for the purpose of establishing an account for loan proceeds to purchase Solid Waste Equipment over a four-year term:

Expenditures:

554720-5105	Vehicles & Rolling Stock	Increase by	\$255,824.00
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Revenues:

654720-399004	Loan Proceeds	Increase by	\$255,824.00
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**ITEM NO. 29 – OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Robinette mentioned that Commissioner Paul Wilson could not be present for the meeting due to illness and extended his best wishes to Commissioner Wilson.

Commissioner Maske mentioned that he had been approached by the Stancil Family and by the Comer Family concerning naming of bridges on the new U. S. Hwy. 220 By-Pass, and he offered a motion to take the recommendations under advisement to be later forwarded to the Department of Transportation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried.

There was discussion of the Board's planning retreat, and Chairman Robinette advised that he and the County Manager would discuss potential dates and locations and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Garner inquired about the level of participation in Senior Games, and County Manager Haynes advised that the funds approved by the Board during the budget process had not yet been spent while the organization is seeking its 501-C3 status. Mr. Haynes also advised that Senior Games has hired an individual to coordinate these activities.

Commissioner Ussery commented on the legal advertisement seeking individuals who might be interested in serving on the Adult Care Community Advisory Committee, and the Clerk advised that one response had been received.

Commissioner Watkins reminded the Board of the groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for 10:00 A.M. the next day for the Lumber River Council of Governments new facility.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. by a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried.

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