

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008, 6:30 P.M.**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Meeting on Monday, February 4, 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, J. C. Watkins, and Paul Wilson, Jr.

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

ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION BY REV. RAY BROOKS OF ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM, NC

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Ray Brooks of Zion United Methodist Church.

ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

A) APPEARANCE BY HUMANE SOCIETY OF RICHMOND COUNTY DIRECTOR CANDY BACON (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Humane Society of Richmond County Director Candy Bacon appeared before the Board and provided handout materials. Mrs. Bacon reported that 4,800 animals enter the shelter each year. Mrs. Bacon reported in detail on shelter statistics since it was first opened in July 2002, and she noted that for the fourth time, the shelter has received a 100% rating. Mrs. Bacon referred to the contractual relationship between the County and the Humane Society for operation of the shelter. Mrs. Bacon stated that the cost of operating the shelter is now more than the Humane Society can afford, and she requested an additional \$40,000.00.

Commissioner Dillman asked how many animals were euthanized at the shelter last year, and Mrs. Bacon advised that 75% to 80%, or approximately 4,000 animals were euthanized. Commissioner Dillman suggested that the shelter might contract with other counties. Mrs. Bacon advised that the shelter holds animals for 6 months.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that the Humane Society is requesting an appropriation from the County of \$40,000.00 in addition to the \$5,000.00 monthly allocation. Mrs. Bacon stated that this is the amount of money needed to operate and to pay personnel.

Chairman Robinette asked the County Manager if he has had an opportunity to review the numbers presented by Mrs. Bacon, and the Manager advised that he has not.

The Board agreed that the County Manager and Mrs. Bacon should sit down together and then return to the Board with a recommendation.

Commissioner Garner asked if this kind of deficit had occurred in past years, and Mrs. Bacon attributed the deficit to the rising cost of utilities and personnel.

Mrs. Bacon acknowledged that greater funding participation by the municipalities would help with funding of shelter operations.

Chairman Robinette thanked Mrs. Bacon thanked Mrs. Bacon for her report.

B) APPEARANCE BY MR. RAYMOND HIPS TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED SOUTH CAROLINA LANDFILL SITE (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Mr. Raymond Hips spoke at length to the Board concerning the proposed South Carolina landfill. Mr. Hips expressed concern that the proposed Marlboro County landfill would become a threat to the safety of Richmond County residents of Wayman Chapel Church Road and Osborne Road. Mr. Hips recommended that Richmond County oppose the proposed Marlboro County landfill and that a class action lawsuit should be filed.

Chairman Robinette advised Mr. Hips that as far as he knew no site has been decided yet, and the Board of Commissioners has no jurisdiction in another state and county. Chairman Robinette assured Mr. Hips that the Board is closely monitoring this process.

Commissioner Dillman suggested that a letter in opposition to the proposed landfill should be sent now to oppose the infringement on North Carolina.

Chairman Robinette stated that he would prefer to have more information on the site.

County Manager Haynes stated that Marlboro County officials did not yet know whether the landfill would be sited there or not.

Commissioner Dillman stated that she has a map of the designated landfill site area.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske to consider the landfill issue during the Board's planning retreat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried.

ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER RZT-2007-3 – PROPOSAL TO SET STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING (BILLBOARDS)

At 6:58 P.M. the public hearing to consider RZT-2007-3 was declared open by Chairman Robinette.

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong stated that the process of setting standards for outdoor advertising signs (billboards) had begun in 1993 with issuance of Conditional Use Permits to address requests that were made by Mr. Perakis and by Mr. Barnhart. Mr. Armstrong noted that these requests were approved on a precedent basis. Mr. Armstrong stated that later the Planning Board had determined that it would be better to have standards established in the ordinance. Mr. Armstrong went on to advise that the Planning Board had considered 6 sign

cases, with 2 signs on wooden poles being approved to be moved. Mr. Armstrong stated that the Planning Board is now seeking direction to determine whether use of wooden poles should continue to be allowed.

Mr. Armstrong stated that the Board has 4 options to consider: 1) hold the public hearing and approve the ordinance as proposed; 2) continue the public hearing with further instructions to the Board of Adjustment; 3) hold the hearing and revise the ordinance tonight; or 4) hold the public hearing tonight and reject the ordinance as proposed.

Chairman Robinette suggested that additional information to the Board between now and the February 18 Planning Retreat would be beneficial, and that sign maintenance is a major concern. Chairman Robinette went on to note that signage along the by-pass is totally different, and that these billboards lend themselves more to national advertisers. Chairman Robinette expressed his desire to improve the appearance of signs in Richmond County.

Commissioner Garner suggested that this matter be referred back to the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment and then be presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration during the planning retreat. Commissioner Garner emphasized the importance of appearance and maintenance of signs.

Mr. Armstrong agreed that dilapidated signs could become an eyesore.

Commissioner Garner suggested that a schedule for inspection of signs be considered as part of the ordinance.

Commissioner Watkins suggested that it might be more appropriate for the public to comment after the Board of Adjustment reconsiders the ordinance.

Mr. Armstrong noted that all meetings of the Board of Adjustment are open to the public, and he recommended that the Commissioners remand the ordinance back to the Planning Board and continue this hearing.

The hearing continued, and Mr. Brian Land approached the Board with a sketch of a proposed sign that he plans to erect on Hwy. 1 North at Bill Land Road. Mr. Land spoke in opposition to mono-pole billboards and he proposed a two-sided 24 x 10 ft. sign on utility poles with attached lighting. Mr. Land described the sign as 960 sq. ft. with a height of 28 ft. and advised that Southern Builders would construct and install the sign. Mr. Land went on to describe metal mono-pole signs as being cost-prohibitive to local businesses, and he stressed the importance of maintenance of signs. Mr. Land encouraged the Board not to limit signs to the mono-pole style.

Commissioner Dillman asked the difference in steel poles and telephone poles. Brian Land advised that the difference is a cost of approximately \$5,000.00 for wooden pole signs compared to \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 for large mono-pole signs.

Mr. Henry Ussery also advised the Board that the hospital has asked him to erect a 24 x 10 ft. billboard on his property near Richmond Senior High with an anti-drug use message. Mr. Ussery requested permission to use wooden salt-treated poles for the sign.

Mr. Will Russell of Summer Duck Farms also spoke in opposition to expensive mono-pole signs and advised that rent for such a sign would be \$800.00 to \$1,200.00 per month.

There were no other speakers, and the public hearing was declared closed at 7:15 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.

Commissioner Garner offered a motion to send the proposed sign ordinance back to the Planning Board to address maintenance requirements with a revised ordinance to be considered by the Board of Commissioners during the February 18-19 Planning Retreat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman. Mr. Armstrong confirmed that the Planning Board is being asked to consider alternatives for metal and wooden poles. Chairman Robinette confirmed that salt-treated poles are recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 5 – MONTHLY PLANNING/GIS REPORT BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG

A) REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO NAME OR RE-NAME ROADS CHANGED DURING CONSTRUCTION OF U.S. HWY. 220 BY-PASS

Due to construction of the new 220 by-pass, Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that several roads were realigned or new roads were created, so name changes are now needed for Emergency Services addressing purposes, etc. Mr. Armstrong referred to Donna Wright, who has met with residents in the areas of 9 different roads where by-pass construction has necessitated road name changes.

Donna Wright referred to 4 maps reflecting changes resulting from construction of the new by-pass. Donna advised that the following new road names are being proposed, and that the goal is to not duplicate any road names and to have as little impact as possible on the residents:

*Macon Ridge Road – off Sandy Ridge Road
Cargo Road – off Haywood Cemetery Road
Hayden Lane – off Millstone Road
Canton Road – off Millstone Road
Maske Road – off Haywood Parker Road
Haywood Parker Road – extending to Crawford Road Extension
Crawford Road Extension – from Haywood Parker Rd. to existing Crawford Rd. Extension
Plainview Road – between N. C. 73 East and Jimmy Carriker Road
Webb Road – off N. C. 73 East*

Mr. Armstrong requested that the Board establish a public hearing date for consideration of the 9 road names recommended. Chairman Robinette mentioned the necessity to change the March 3 Regular Meeting date to the following Monday, March 10.

By a motion of Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to advertise the public hearing to be held during the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2008.

B) FOLLOW-UP ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ISSUED FOR PROPERTY CLEAN-UP

Mr. Armstrong advised that the clean up effort in East Rockingham has resulted in assessments totaling \$23,284.00 against 15 properties for the cost of clean-up, and 6 of those assessments have been satisfied.

ITEM NO. 6 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO

Director of Development Rick Sago advised that he had recently attended the North Carolina Motorsports Banquet, and Richmond County had been nominated for an award due to efforts to bring back the speedway.

Mr. Sago updated the Board on BRAC activities, advising that he had attended an Economic Development meeting last week, and discussions are still geared toward the eventual major impact to this region. Mr. Sago advised that the term “All American Defense Corridor” is being used to describe all of the bases in the involved area.

Mr. Sago reported on continuing activity and meetings with an industry client that he has been working with for nearly a year. Mr. Sago advised that he and County Manager Haynes had recently met with the President and Vice-President of the company at the airport, and from there, the client was taken to the modular office at the industrial park where RCC and Employment Security representatives had met with the client. Mr. Sago emphasized the importance of workforce in recruiting industry, noting that available workforce is a problem in other areas. Mr. Sago expressed appreciation to Director of Community Services B. K. Jones and his staff and to D.O.T. for assistance in preparing for clients.

Commissioner Dillman asked if the name of this client had come as a referral through North Carolina Southeast, and Mr. Sago advised that the company had been a referral through N. C. Southeast. Mr. Sago expressed appreciation to Chairman Robinette and County Manager Haynes for their assistance in meeting with the client.

Chairman Robinette agreed that the meeting with the client had gone very well, and he commended Rick on his pursuit of this company and efforts by N. C. Southeast to assist the County in recruiting this client. Chairman Robinette emphasized the importance of Mr. Sago’s qualifications as a Professional Engineer and the value of his background and ability to respond to information requested by clients. Chairman Robinette remarked that Richmond County is the only county with a Developer on staff who is also an engineer.

ITEM NO. 7 – MONTHLY REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES

County Manager Haynes provided a PowerPoint presentation to explain the 4-year Revaluation schedule used in Richmond County and how this schedule impacts utility valuations and the county tax rate. The County Manager explained how the Revaluation process works, the anticipated increase in values by 15% to 20%, and that the tax rate would be adjusted downward during the budget process.

ITEM NO. 8 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A) **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2008 AND MINUTES OF MID-MONTH NOON MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2008 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK.**
- B) **TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$22,683.52 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$1,389.62 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 SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET AMENDMENT TO BUDGET ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (HEATING ASSISTANCE)**

Expense Acct. #115372-6131 (Crisis Intervention Program) – Increase from \$75,073.00 to \$147,101.00

Revenue Acct. #115310-333021 (Crisis Intervention Program) – Increase from \$75,073.00 to \$147,101.00

- D) **APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO REFLECT DECREASE IN FUNDS ORIGINALLY BUDGETED FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE – HIV/HBV BUDGET FOR FY 2007-2008**

Revenue:

Communicable Disease HIV/HBV:

<i>State Reimb.</i>	<i>115195-333204</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i>(\$26,630.00)</i>
<i>Local Appropriations</i>	<i>115110-</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i><u>(\$33,000.00)</u></i>
			<i>(\$59,630.00)</i>

Expenditures:

Communicable Disease HIV/HBV:

<i>Salaries</i>	<i>115195-4100</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i>(\$43,500.00)</i>
<i>FICA</i>	<i>115195-4110</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i>(\$15,655.00)</i>
<i>Office Supplies</i>	<i>115195-4210</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i>(\$ 150.00)</i>
<i>Travel & Conf.</i>	<i>115195-4300</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i>(\$ 100.00)</i>
<i>Postage</i>	<i>115195-4305</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i>(\$ 125.00)</i>
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>115195-4310</i>	<i>Decrease by</i>	<i><u>(\$ 100.00)</u></i>
			<i>(\$59,630.00)</i>

E) APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS THROUGH HIV/STD PREVENTION AND CARE BRANCH

Revenue:

HIV Community Outreach Services:

<i>State Reimb.</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$10,667.00</i>
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Expenditures:

HIV Community Outreach Services:

<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 7,072.14</i>
<i>Fringes</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 2,642.42</i>
<i>Office Supplies</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 165.07</i>
<i>Medical Supplies</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 275.00</i>
<i>Travel</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 375.00</i>
<i>Postage</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 66.67</i>
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Acct. # to be Established</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 71.70</i>
			<i>\$10,667.00</i>

F) APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENTS IN VARIOUS BUDGETS TO COVER ESTIMATED EXPENSES THROUGH REMAINDER OF FY 2007-2008

Expenditures:

Local Appropriation:

Salaries	115110-4100	Decrease by	(\$ 74,175.00)
FICA	115110-4110	Decrease by	(\$ 5,676.00)
Group Insurance	115110-4120	Decrease by	(\$ 10,257.00)
Retirement	115110-4130	Decrease by	(\$ 3,650.00)
Supp Ret - 401K	115110-4135	Decrease by	(\$ 5,193.00)
Dept. Supp.	115110-4200	Decrease by	(\$ 1,200.00)
Purc Subj to Inv	115110-4275	Decrease by	(\$ 212.00)
Telephone	115110-4310	Decrease by	(\$ 1,350.00)
			(\$101,713.00)

Communicable Disease- General:

Salaries	115123-4100	Increase by	\$ 10,500.00
FICA	115123-4110	Increase by	\$ 3,500.00
			\$ 14,000.00

Risk Reduction:

Salaries	115150-4100	Increase by	\$ 10,000.00
FICA	115150-4110	Increase by	\$ 3,925.00
Office Supplies	115150-4210	Increase by	\$ 700.00
Telephone	115150-4310	Increase by	\$ 600.00
			\$15,225.00

Cancer Program:

Salaries	115180-4100	Increase by	\$ 2,000.00
FICA	115180-4110	Increase by	<u>\$ 660.00</u>
			\$ 2,660.00

Environmental Health:

Salaries	115185-4100	Increase by	\$13,000.00
FICA	115185-4110	Increase by	\$ 4,030.00
Dept. Supplies	115185-4200	Increase by	\$ 500.00
Purch Subj to Inv.	115185-4275	Increase by	\$ 212.00
Telephone	115185-4310	Increase by	<u>\$ 750.00</u>
			\$18,492.00

Childhood Lead Screening:

Salaries	115205-4100	Increase by	\$ 4,250.00
FICA	115205-4110	Increase by	<u>\$ 2,450.00</u>
			\$ 5,700.00

Quality Control:

Salaries	115217-4100	Increase by	\$19,200.00
FICA	115217-4110	Increase by	<u>\$ 6,336.00</u>
			\$25,536.00

County Employee Clinic:

Salaries	115218-4100	Increase by	\$15,225.00
FICA	115218-4110	Increase by	<u>\$ 4,875.00</u>
			\$20,100.00

ITEM NO. 9 – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO DECLARE VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE AS SURPLUS PROPERTY

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution to declare various equipment and furniture as surplus property:

**RESOLUTION
TO DECLARE HEALTH DEPARTMENT
EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE
AS SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR DISPOSAL**

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

***HON High Back Chair – purchased 12/90
HP 600 Deskjet Printer – Ser. #SG63R1B08C – purchased 6/96
Epson 850 Printer – purchased 3/99
HP Color Jet Printer – Ser. #3PDB012427 – purchased 6/96
HON Burgundy Chair – purchased 6/2000
HP Office Jet Printer TX45 – purchased 4/2001***

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 furniture and 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 4th day of February, 2008.

ITEM NO. 10 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AND AGREEMENT WITH RBC CENTURA TO DESIGNATE SHEILA DUNN TROTTER AS DEPUTY FINANCE OFFICER

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved an Agreement and Resolution with RBC Centura to designate Sheila Dunn Trotter as Deputy Finance Officer to serve in the absence of the Finance Officer.

ITEM NO. 11 – REQUEST BY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO PURCHASE CUSTOM-MADE TOP FOR ROLL-OFF RECYCLING CONTAINER

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Amendment for Cooperative Extension Service to appropriate grant funds awarded for a program to dispose of empty pesticide containers:

<u>Expenditures:</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
114950-4256 NCDAs Pesticide Grant	\$2,322.40	
<u>Revenues:</u>		
114950-322008 NCDAs Pesticide Grant	\$2,322.40	

ITEM NO. 12 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO RICHMOND COUNTY ADULT CARE HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By a motion of Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved appointment of the following two applicants to serve on the Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee, pending confirmation by Lumber River COG Regional Ombudsman Twilla Allen:

Ms. Ana Lue Sanford
Mr. Jim Chavis

ITEM NO. 13 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO NORTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO AUTHORIZE RICHMOND COUNTY TO SEEK \$24,000,000.00 IN INSTALLMENT FINANCING TO FUND JUDICIAL CENTER CONSTRUCTION AND RICHMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

Chairman Robinette referred to bond counsel Robert M. Jessup, who advised that adoption of a Resolution Supporting an Application to North Carolina Local Government Commission to Authorize Richmond County to Seek \$24,000,000.00 in Installment Financing to Fund Judicial Center Construction and Richmond Community College Improvements Projects is the next step for this project. Mr. Jessup explained that adoption of the Resolution to support the LGC application authorizes LGC staff to complete the process and makes certain findings of fact that the project is necessary and desirable. Mr. Jessup advised that the next step is to conduct a public hearing during the first meeting in March.

Commissioner Dillman asked Mr. Jessup the time for payback of the funds. Mr. Jessup advised that a 20 to 25-year payback period would be requested. Commissioner Dillman then asked if more could be paid toward principle, and Mr. Jessup advised that this would be determined by the rules of the lender, but pre-payment at any time without penalty would be requested.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that the amount to be borrowed would be determined by the bid amount.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to approve the Resolution in support of the project and to conduct the public hearing on the proposed financing of the project during the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2008.

ITEM NO. 14 – OTHER BUSINESS

A) CONSIDERATION OF RE-SCHEDULE DATE FOR MARCH 3, 2008 REGULAR MEETING DUE TO CONFLICT WITH NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board postponed the date of the March 3 Regular Meeting until the following Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. due to conflict with the NACo Legislative Conference dates.

B) CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN RICHMOND COUNTY

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to approve the following Proclamation recognizing February as “Black History Month” in Richmond County. Commissioner Watkins offered comments pertaining to the observance of Black History Month. Commissioner Watkins noted that there was a time in this country when history pertaining to blacks was not included in the schools, but after research, a “Black History Week” was observed and then later expanded into designation of the entire month of February for this purpose in 1972. Commissioner Watkins advised that history books now include the many contributions made by blacks. The motion carried unanimously to adopt the Proclamation:

**A Proclamation Recognizing
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
February, 2008**

Whereas, the entire month of February has been set aside as Black History Month since 1972, at which time observance of the many contributions made by black Americans was first expanded to include a month-long focus on honoring Black Americans who have contributed to the progress of this Great Nation; and

Whereas, the observance of Black History Month during the month of February affords the special opportunity for citizens to become more knowledgeable about black heritage and to promote programs and activities to better inform the public on the purpose and the goals of Black History Month; and

Whereas, such knowledge can strengthen the insight of all our citizens regarding the issues of human rights, the great strides that have been made in the crusade to eliminate the barriers of equality for minority groups, and the continuing struggle against racial discrimination and poverty.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the month of February as **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** in Richmond County, and we take this opportunity to urge all citizens to assist, encourage and participate in scheduled activities, and to join together in making this a period of rededication to the principles of justice and equality for all people.

Adopted this 4th day of February, 2008.

County Manager Haynes reminded the Board of the planning retreat scheduled for February 18 and February 19, 2008 at The National Golf Club. Mr. Haynes noted that the retreat would be facilitated by Aycok and Associates and that there is no set agenda at this time.

Commissioner Garner confirmed that North Carolina Southeast would make a presentation during the retreat. County Manager Haynes confirmed that the retreat would begin at 1:00 P.M. on Monday and adjourn around noon on Tuesday.

Commissioner Garner complimented County Manager Haynes on his explanation of Revaluation, and he requested that the County Manager provide further explanation for the benefit of the public on how values are applied by the Tax Office during the next Regular Meeting.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M. by a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried.

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