

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

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

Commissioner Thad Ussery was absent due to illness. Chairman Robinette noted that Commissioner Ussery is doing well and is scheduled to return to Duke on April 15.

ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION BY REV. RUSSELL EDWARDS OF VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM, NC

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Russell Edwards of Victory Baptist Church, Rockingham, NC.

ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Maske noted that he has a conflict with Item No. 19 and requested Board approval to abstain from voting on this item.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to authorize Commissioner Maske to abstain from voting on Item No. 19.

A second to the motion to approve the Agenda as presented was offered by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried.

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

A) RECOGNITION OF CHRISTOPHER JOHN LARSEN AS RECIPIENT OF THE “DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GOOD CITIZEN” AWARD (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Ms. Susanne McInnis appeared before the Board in behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution to introduce Chris Larsen and his parents. Ms. McInnis advised that Chris has been awarded the DAR “Good Citizen Award in recognition of his scholarship-winning essay on American Heritage and how to preserve it.

Chairman Robinette commended Chris on his achievements.

Commissioner Dillman complimented Mr. and Mrs. Larsen on the accomplishments of Chris and their other son as well.

B) PRESENTATION BY MR. BELVIN SWEATT CONCERNING PROPOSED MARLBORO COUNTY, SC LANDFILL FACILITY (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Mr. Belvin Sweatt thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak in behalf of “Citizens for Marlboro County.” Mr. Sweatt referred to two proposed landfill sites in Marlboro County and presented a map depicting the proposed sites. Mr. Sweatt requested that the Board join in opposing the proposed landfills by taking a stronger stance. Mr. Sweatt suggested that the Board write a letter of opposition to the proposed landfill sites to Senator Demint and to Senator Lindsay Graham.

Commissioner Dillman asked Mr. Sweatt if there had been any changes in Marlboro County ordinances. Mr. Sweatt advised that a request had been made for the zoning ordinance to be changed, but thus far the ordinance had not been changed. Mr. Sweatt stated that the Marlboro County Manager had expressed concern of a potential lawsuit. Mr. Sweatt thanked the Board for their help.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman that a letter be written to South Carolina legislators in opposition to the proposed Marlboro County landfill sites and noting concern that Richmond County’s economy and environment would be destroyed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maske. Chairman Robinette cautioned that the Board must be careful and able to substantiate any inferences made in the letter since the Board members are not scientists. Commissioner Dillman made reference to the wording in the ordinance and the adverse effect on farming. Commissioner Maske suggested that County Manager Haynes write the letter based on contents of the County ordinance. Commissioner Watkins also cautioned that the letter not be too specific and that only statements that can be verified should be made. Commissioner Maske recommended that a copy of Richmond County’s ordinance be provided to Mr. Sweatt.

Commissioner Garner agreed on the negative potential of the proposed MRR site that would involve 5,000 acres.

Chairman Robinette re-stated the motion to ask the County Manager to write a letter to South Carolina Legislators opposing the proposed Marlboro County landfill, subject to Board approval of the draft letter. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON REZONING PETITION RZM-2008-2 FILED BY MR. ROBERT C. MILLIKEN; R. A. AND ADVILA MILLIKEN; AND ROBERT A. MILLIKEN III AND RITA

The Public Hearing to consider RZM-2008-2, a request for rezoning filed by Mr. Robert C. Milliken, R. A. and Advila Milliken, and Robert A. Milliken III and Rita was declared open by Chairman Robinette at 6:54 P.M.

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that the Millikens are requesting rezoning of their property at Sandy Lane. Mr. Armstrong advised that the property is located off U.S. Hwy. 1 North and is currently zoned County Residential. Mr. Armstrong stated that manufactured homes were not allowed in the 1,000 ft. corridor. Mr. Armstrong advised that the Planning Board had reviewed the request and had voted 5 to 1 to deny the rezoning request based on inconsistency with policies.

County Manager Haynes asked Mr. Armstrong to explain the differences in the two zoning designations. Mr. Armstrong advised that manufactured homes nor HUD homes are allowed on property zoned as County Residential, but Rural Residential zoning would allow for manufactured housing.

Commissioner Dillman asked about the 1,000 ft corridor, and Chairman Robinette reiterated that mobile homes are not allowed within the 1,000 ft. corridor.

Commissioner Watkins confirmed that mobile homes could not be located on the front of the property. Mr. Armstrong affirmed that mobile homes could be located on the back portion of the property. Mr. Armstrong clarified that the Highway Commercial Overlay is not a factor in the rezoning petition and that mobile homes can be located on the property as long as they are situated more than 1,000 ft. from the road front.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske to table action on this rezoning request until Board members have an opportunity to visit the property. The motion was then withdrawn.

Commissioner Garner asked how much property along Hwy. 1 is zoned County Residential. Mr. Armstrong advised that all property from Wiregrass Road to Fox Road is zoned as County Residential.

Commissioner Maske confirmed the location of the Milliken property at Sandy Lane to the left of Hwy. 1 North.

Commissioner Watkins confirmed that the 1,000 ft. corridor is not countywide.

Mrs. Rita Milliken provided pictures of where her son would like to place the mobile home. Mrs. Milliken advised that her son has already purchased the home, and that the family knew nothing about the zoning restriction. Mrs. Milliken further noted that her in-laws own 41 acres and that the 1,000 ft. corridor divides the property in half.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that the manufactured home would not be visible from Hwy. 1.

Mrs. Milliken advised that the family is still requesting the rezoning so as to prevent future problems for her children and grandchildren.

There were no other speakers, and the public hearing was declared closed at 7:04 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.

Commissioner Maske offered a motion to table action on the Milliken rezoning request until April 15 during the Mid-Month Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried.

ITEM NO.5 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ATTACHMENT OF MONETARY ASSESSMENT TO PROPERTIES SUBJECT TO DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF STRUCTURES BY THE RICHMOND COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Robinette declared the Public Hearing open at 7:05 P.M. to receive input on the Assessment Roll for property subject to demolition and removal by the Code Enforcement Administrator.

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that the Assessment Roll is the list of properties scheduled for condemnation. Once the list is confirmed, Mr. Armstrong advised that the assessment roll would be submitted to the Tax Office.

In further discussion, it was noted that asbestos was found and removed in two structures, and Mr. Armstrong added that landfill fees are the responsibility of the demolition contractor.

Code Enforcement Officer Shannon Brigman was also present to answer questions.

Commissioner Garner asked if any property owners have shown interest in paying the cost of clean-up. Mr. Armstrong advised that only Mr. Williams has responded.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that this would be a part of the Cole Foundation funds. Mr. Armstrong clarified that the cost of the clean-up is actually an assessment and payment is pursued by the Tax Collector in the same manner as unpaid taxes.

There were no other speakers, and the hearing was declared closed at 7:10 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to approve the following Assessment Roll as presented:

Case Number	PIN #	Physical Address	Owner's Name	Assessment Total
ERI-033	747214344641	129 Railroad St	Thurman Barbee (est.) C/O Phillip Barbee	\$4,950.00
ERI-035	747210259042	McCroskey Ave	Barbara and Dennis Thompson	\$4,495.00
ERI-037	747209250370	107 Hannah Pickett	Edward and Gloria Davis	\$3,895.00
ERI-039	746204948373	365 Airport Rd	Barbara Perkins Weldon (Est.)	\$4,750.00
ERI-040	747214340182	Church St	Calvin J Williams and Susan	\$6,750.00

ITEM NO. 6 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that May 1, 2008 is date scheduled for the Census Dress Rehearsal in Fayetteville, and our area and an area in California are the only two areas chosen to participate.

Mr. Armstrong noted that the Planning Board is scheduled to meet the next night in the Cooperative Extension Meeting room.

ITEM NO. 7 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO

Director of Development Rick Sago referred to the Board's discussion during the February planning retreat and the request for a report from the Tourism Development Authority. As Chairman of the Tourism Authority, Mr. Sago reported that the Authority was created in 1987 to levy the 3% room occupancy tax that was implemented by special legislation of the General Assembly, and later an additional 3% room tax was authorized for the City of Rockingham. Mr. Sago advised that proceeds from the room tax are used as stipulated by the special legislation for promotion of tourism. In further discussion of the Tourism Authority, Mr. Sago noted that 5 of the members are appointed by the Board of Commissioners and 2 by the City of Rockingham in the prescribed areas of representation. Mr. Sago advised that relocation of the Tourism Authority to the newly renovated depot building is being considered. Mr. Sago discussed the upcoming races scheduled at Rockingham Dragway and at the Speedway in April and May. Mr. Sago provide copies of the new tourism brochure provided, and he estimated the Tourism Authority budget to be \$240,500.00 for the coming year, the majority of which will be used to promote tourism in Richmond County in a pro-active manner.

Commissioner Dillman recommended that the Tourism Authority consider advertising in Southern Living Magazine.

Commissioner Watkins suggested that the Authority help to promote agriculture. Mr. Sago confirmed that the Authority is open to assisting the agricultural community any way that they can.

Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Sago for the update on Richmond County Tourism Authority.

ITEM NO. 8 – MONTHLY REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES

County Manager Haynes referred to the Board's discussion during the February planning retreat and advised that he has met with officials from Ellerbe, Mayor McCaskill and Councilman Meacham, to discuss sewer plans and needs in the Ellerbe area. Mr. Haynes advised that Lumber River Council of Governments has committed to assist in seeking grant funds to address sewer needs in the Ellerbe area.

In discussion of tax collections, Mr. Haynes reported that the current collection rate is 91.73%, compared to 92.8% at this same time last year. However, Mr. Haynes noted that 1% of the collection rate can be attributed to the appealed portion of speedway taxes appealed by SMI.

Mr. Haynes reported that the contract for construction of the new judicial center has now been signed as of today.

In further discussion of the pending taxes appealed by the former speedway owner, Commissioner Maske asked the County Manager how long he anticipated that the racetrack appeal might last. Mr. Haynes advised that he had not seen any progress at the State level at all but hoped that the issue would be resolved before the new tax year. Mr. Haynes further noted that this could affect the 2008-2009 budget if not collected. Mr. Haynes advised the Board that departmental budget requests are due April 21, and he noted that the State seems to be fulfilling

its commitment on Medicaid. However, Mr. Haynes cautioned of a projected \$250,000.00 increase in the Foster Care Program.

Commissioner Dillman mentioned compensation for the Medical Examiner position and suggested writing a letter to request that the Legislature provide increased funding for Medical Examiners. Commissioner Dillman stated that doctors who serve in this capacity are only paid \$150.00 for this service. Commissioner Dillman went on to say that she had been contacted by families who have been inconvenienced by the shortage of Medical Examiners to perform autopsies in a timely manner.

County Manager Haynes advised that the State sets the rate of pay for Medical Examiners and provides the funding.

Commissioner Watkins confirmed that the County has no real role in establishing rates of pay for Medical Examiner positions.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that the function and rate of compensation of the Medical Examiner is governed in all 100 counties by the State.

Commissioner Garner commented that this might be a medical staff issue and noted that Medical Examiners are only called upon to sign off on deaths of questionable cause.

Chairman Robinette asked County Manager Haynes to make the State aware of this concern.

ITEM NO. 9 – 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 REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2008 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK FOR CONSIDERATION**

- B) TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$28,234.86 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$1,493.75 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 ACCEPT PERFORMANCE-BASED DISTRIBUTION OF 2006-2007 FOOD AND LODGING FUNDS**

<u>Revenue:</u>			
State Reimbursement	115187-333106	Increase by	\$6,846.28
<u>Expenditures: Food & Lodging</u>			
Office Supplies	115187-4210	Increase by	\$6,000.00
Travel & Conference	115187-4300	Increase by	300.00
Postage	115187-4305	Increase by	300.00
Telephone	115187-4305	Increase by	<u>246.28</u>
		TOTAL	\$6,845.28

ITEM NO. 10 – REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR COPIER

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to authorize the Health Department to enter into a lease agreement with Sandhills Office Systems for a new copier.

ITEM NO. 11 – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO DECLARE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS AS SURPLUS COUNTY PROPERTY

A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to adopt the following Resolution to declare various Social Services computers and printers as surplus county property:

**RESOLUTION
TO DECLARE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS
AS SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR DISPOSAL**

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

***Dell – 09915; 10695; 10686; 10688; 10694; 10689; 08653; 10682
10690; 10693; and 10684
IBM – 9340 and 9339
TTX Monitor – 7631
HP Printers – 08419; 09694; 09648; 09700; 09695; and 09642
Epson Printers – 05008 and 7907***

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 computer 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 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 12 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 2008 AS PURPLE RIBBON MONTH IN RICHMOND COUNTY

Ms. Ann Pruitt thanked the Board for their support in the fight against cancer. Ms. Pruitt stated that last year participants in Relay for Life raised over \$190,000.00; the equivalent of \$4.00 per

capita. Ms. Pruitt went on to advise that a task force has been formed to bring more services for patients into Richmond County. May 15 is the date for the 2008 Relay for Life with "Celebrate" as the theme, and Ms. Pruitt encouraged everyone to participate.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to approve the following Resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
TO DESIGNATE APRIL 2008
"PURPLE RIBBON MONTH" IN RICHMOND COUNTY

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County has joined in the fight to rid society of this dread disease by making a commitment to be informed, stay healthy, become involved in the community, and to continue to support the American Cancer Society; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society has chosen Relay for Life as the signature event to raise funds for research, support, educational programs, and advocacy to change laws on how these programs are funded; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County has chosen to respond to society's needs by holding a Relay for Life Event each year as part of the ongoing battle against cancer; and

WHEREAS, the people of Richmond County have chosen April as "**PURPLE RIBBON MONTH**" in a show of support for the continued effort by the teams participating in this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 2008 as "**PURPLE RIBBON MONTH**" in Richmond County and encourages its citizens to participate in our local Relay for Life Event in support of the people of Richmond County who continue their fight against cancer.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 13 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE "NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK" DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 6-12, 2008

At this point, Chairman Robinette read a State of the County Address in recognition of "County Government Week."

The address read by Chairman Robinette highlighted the past year's economic development projects, county Medicaid costs, tax revaluation and the projected decrease in the County tax rate.

Commissioner Garner suggested that copies of this report be made readily available for the public.

Commissioner Maske stated that for a rural county, Richmond County has been proactive in attracting industry and making land available to clients.

Commissioner Watkins stated that in serving on the Lumber River Council of Governments Board, Richmond County is the envy of the other COG member counties in recruiting industry. Commissioner Watkins added that Richmond County has been able to overcome our Tier 1 status in recruiting industry.

Commissioner Garner attributed much of what has been accomplished in the County during the past 10 years can be attributed to the county administrative staff and to county employees. Commissioner Garner went on to commend the sincerity of county department heads at budget time, and he described county employees as the backbone of county government.

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Proclamation to designate the week of April 6-12, 2008 as "County Government Week" in Richmond County:

**PROCLAMATION
DECLARING "NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK"
APRIL 6-12, 2008**

WHEREAS, America's counties provide a variety of essential services. Many of these services work to protect our communities; and

WHEREAS, Counties protect residents from natural disasters, terrorist attacks, crime and drug abuse. Counties are the first to respond to emergency situations and are primarily responsible for planning for disasters. Counties also work to protect families, children and youth; and

WHEREAS, there are 3,066 counties in the United States, collectively responsible for the well being of more than 300 million residents; and

WHEREAS, Counties provide services that make America's communities stronger, safer places to live and raise families; and

WHEREAS, Counties have a long history of providing critical services. County governments are the citizens' local government voice, providing solutions that bring communities together.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that In recognition of the leadership, innovation and valuable service provided by our nation's counties and our local county government employees, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 6-12, 2008 as "**National County Government Week**" in Richmond County.

ADOPTED, this the 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 14 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2008 AS PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Proclamation to designate April 2008 as "Public Health Month" in Richmond County:

P R O C L A M A T I O N
APRIL 2008
PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, we hereby recognize and acknowledge 128 years of public health service to the residents of North Carolina, and the immeasurable contribution of these services to the quality of life in our State; and

WHEREAS, public health measures to control and eliminate infectious diseases, improve environmental sanitation, and promote healthy lifestyle practices have been the greatest cause of improved health status and increased life expectancy for North Carolina's residents; and

WHEREAS, a continued focus on prevention has resulted in a 16 percent decline in heart disease since 2000, a 22 percent decline in stroke deaths since 2000, and a 17 percent decline in the teen pregnancy rate among minorities since 2000; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public health system is a critical component of the state's emergency response capacity, particularly with respect to the threat of terrorist-sponsored attacks on North Carolina.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenneth R. Robinette, Chairman of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2008, as "**PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH**" in Richmond County and urge our citizens to recognize that public health is working to ensure that all Richmond County residents are protected from threats such as influenza, food-borne disease and cardiovascular disease.*

Adopted this 7th Day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 15 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 13-19, 2008 AS NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following Proclamation to designate April 13-19, 2008 as "National Telecommunicators Week" in Richmond County:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
APRIL 13 – 19, 2008**

WHEREAS, the Congress and the President of the United States have established the second week of April as National Telecommunicators Week; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County E-911 Telecommunicators play a vital role in the

WHEREAS, Richmond County E-911 Telecommunicators, while enduring shift work and frequent emergencies, continue to perform their duties in a dedicated, diligent, and loyal manner; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County E-911 Telecommunicators provide a critical linkage between the public and law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service providers; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County E-911 Telecommunicators efficiently coordinate emergency services for both man-made and natural disasters to ensure the health and safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County E-911 Telecommunicators exhibit compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their duties and perform outstanding public service that deserves praise and recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 13-19, 2008 as **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK** in Richmond County.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 16 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 13-19, 2008 AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Proclamation to designate April 13-19, 2008 as “National Library Week” in Richmond County:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

WHEREAS, our nation’s school, academic, public and special libraries make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans today, more than ever; and

WHEREAS, librarians are trained professionals, helping people of all ages and backgrounds find and interpret the information they need to live, learn and work in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, libraries are part of the American Dream – places for opportunity, education, self-help and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, library use is up nationwide among all types of library users, continuing a decade-long trend; and

WHEREAS, libraries play a vital role in supporting the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, libraries can help you discover a world of knowledge, both in person and online, as well as personal service and assistance in finding what you need, when you need it; and

WHEREAS, libraries are a key player in the national discourse on intellectual freedom, equity of access and narrowing the “digital divide,” and

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week with The Campaign for American’s Libraries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 13-19, 2008 as **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK** and encourages all residents to visit the library this week to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available and thank their librarians and library workers for making information accessible to all who walk through the library’s doors. Join the circle of knowledge at your library.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 17 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE APRIL 19 – MAY 3, 2008 AS LITTER SWEEP TIME IN RICHMOND COUNTY

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the following Proclamation to designate April 19-May 3, 2008 as Litter Sweep Time in Richmond County:

**SPRING LITTER SWEEP 2008
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation organizes an annual spring statewide roadside cleanup to ensure clean and beautiful roads in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the spring 2008 "LITTER SWEEP" roadside cleanup will take place April 19 - May 3, 2008, and encourages local governments and communities, civic and professional groups, businesses, churches, schools, families, and individual citizens to participate in the Department of Transportation cleanup by sponsoring and organizing local roadside cleanups; and

WHEREAS, Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Department of Transportation employees, Department of Correction inmates and community service workers, local government agencies, community leaders, civic and community organizations, businesses, churches, schools, and environmentally concerned citizens conduct annual local cleanups during "LITTER SWEEP" and may receive certificates of appreciation for their participation; and

WHEREAS, the great natural beauty of our State and a clean environment are sources of great pride for all North Carolinians, attracting tourists and aiding in recruiting new industries; and

WHEREAS, the cleanup will increase awareness of the need for cleaner roadsides, emphasize the importance of not littering, and encourage recycling of solid wastes; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Spring cleanup will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the North Carolina Adopt-A-Highway program and its 6,000 volunteer groups that donate their labor and time year round to keep our roadsides clean; and

WHEREAS, the "LITTER SWEEP" cleanup will be a part of educating the children of this Great State regarding the importance of a clean environment to the quality of life in North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim **April 19 – May 3, 2008** as **LITTER SWEEP** time in Richmond County and encourages all citizens to take an active role in making their community cleaner.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 18 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution in Support of Continuation of Criminal Justice Partnership Program Funding:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM FUNDING**

WHEREAS, since 1995, the State of North Carolina and county governments have been partners in providing effective and necessary community supervision of adult criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, the CJPP funding program of Richmond County is meeting the goals for the program as stated in the General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with legislative mandates, the Richmond County CJPP local advisory board is comprised of law enforcement, judicial, and county government representatives as designated; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County CJPP diligently carries out its charge of establishing and delivering competent, effective, and necessary program assistance to augment community supervision of adult criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, the loss of CJPP services in Richmond County would result in the loss of rehabilitative services for offenders and additional costs of incarceration due to higher failure rates for offenders; and

WHEREAS, Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) funding has been removed from the State's continuation budget and is now subject to continuation review; and

WHEREAS, non-recurring status of CJPP funding and subsequent continuation review will delay the annual appropriation and may result in the loss of qualified professional personnel or cause county government to discontinue participation due to uncertainty of funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners strongly endorses full reinstatement of funding for the Criminal Justice Partnership Program to the continuation budget.

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 19 – CONSIDERATION OF FIRST BANK AS AN OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY OF RICHMOND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

County Manager Haynes advised the Board that FirstBank has requested designation as an official depository for Richmond County Government.

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and carried by the following vote, FirstBank was designated as an official depository for Richmond County Government funds:

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

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTION: Commissioner Maske

ITEM NO. 20 – REQUEST FOR BOARD TO SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MAY 5, 2008 TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON CREATION OF FIRE FEE DISTRICT FOR RESPONSE AREA OUTSIDE TOWN LIMITS OF HOFFMAN

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board set a public hearing date of May 5, 2008 during the Board's Regular Meeting to receive public input on the creation of a fire fee district for the response area outside Town Limits of Hoffman.

ITEM NO. 21 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO RICHMOND COUNTY ADULT CARE HOME COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Dawn Courtney Mason to serve on the Richmond County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee, pending concurrence by Lumber River Council of Governments.

ITEM NO. 22 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ONE PERCENT DISCOUNT FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST

County Manager Haynes discussed the option to offer a discount to citizens who pay taxes early during the month of August. Mr. Haynes noted that the Board had previously discussed this option, and he advised that if the Board chooses to make this payment option available in 2008, a Resolution must be adopted no later than May 1. Mr. Haynes recommended making the

discount option available for the month of August, and he noted that an extension of the discount period could be granted later if the Board so chooses.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske to adopt the following Resolution to authorize the early payment discount for the month of August only and then to look at this next year to consider additional months for the discount period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried:

**RESOLUTION
DISCOUNT SCHEDULE FOR EARLY PAYMENT OF
RICHMOND COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, effective with the tax year beginning July 1, 2008, hereby authorizes a one percent (1%) discount for Richmond County property taxes paid during the month of August.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the one percent (1%) discount plan for early payment of property taxes during the month of August shall remain in effect until repealed or changed by the Board of Commissioners.

Adopted by the Richmond County Board of Commissioners in Regular Session this 7th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 23 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WATER IMPROVEMENTS

A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Dillman to approve the following Budget Amendment to transfer funds for payment of the cost of DOT Water Improvements installed 10 years ago. Commissioner Maske confirmed that the funds would be transferred from Undesignated Fund Balance. County Manager Haynes noted that DOT had just recently billed the County for the additional cost of this work. The motion carried unanimously to approve the following Budget Amendment:

Expenditures:

119800-8169	Transfer to Water & Sewer Fund	Increase by	\$118,305.30
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Revenues:

119900-399001	Appropriate Undesignated Fund Balance	Increase by	\$118,305.30
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ITEM NO. 24 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM RICHMOND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP TO BE USED FOR MARKETING PURPOSES

A motion was offered by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the following Budget Amendment to appropriate funds remaining after the close-out of Richmond Economic Development Partnership. Commissioner Dillman asked how the funds would be used, and County Manager Haynes advised that the funds would be used toward Economic Development Marketing. The motion carried unanimously.

Expenditures:

114215-4357	Marketing	Increase by	\$34,553.73
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Revenues:

114000-389001	Misc. Revenue	Increase by	\$34,553.73
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ITEM NO. 25 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCREASE HWY. 74 INDUSTRIAL PARK FUND BUDGET BY THE AMOUNT OF SALES & USE TAX REFUND

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Amendment to increase Hwy. 74 Industrial Park Budget by the amount of Sales and Use Tax revenues:

Expenditures:

484920-4160	Professional Services	Increase by	\$9,400.00
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Revenues:

484920-335101	Sales & Use Tax Refund	Increase by	\$9,400.00
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ITEM NO. 26 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND

For purposes of clarification for audit purposes, the Board approved the following Budget Amendments to cover Airport Capital Improvements by a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried:

Expenditures:

404540-4160	Professional Svc. (Runway Safety Proj.)	Increase by	\$ 3,063.00
404560-5174	Terminal Construction	Increase by	\$11,016.00
404570-5126	Environmental Assessment	Increase by	\$85,825.00

Revenues:

404530-392001	Transfer from General Fund	Increase by	\$99,904.00
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Expenditures:

119800-8150	Transfer to Airport Improvement Funds	Increase by	\$99,904.00
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Revenues:

11990-399001	Appropriated Fund Balance	Increase by	\$99,904.00
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ITEM NO. 27 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Amendments for special projects and rent expense:

Expenditures:

294920-4315	Rental Expense	Increase by	\$ 4,500.00
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Revenues:

294920-392001	Transfer from General Fund	Increase by	\$ 3,914.01
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294920-335101	Sales & Use Tax Refund	Increase by	\$ 403.71
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294920-382501	Sale of County Property	Increase by	\$ 182.28
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ITEM NO. 28 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO WATER AND SEWER FUND

By a motion of Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the Board approved the following Budget Amendments in the Water and Sewer Fund. Commissioner Maske confirmed that EPA funds were used for the Southeast Water Improvements Project:

ITEM NO. 29 – CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FROM MGT OF AMERICA, INC. TO PREPARE COST ALLOCATION REPORTS FOR RICHMOND COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2007, JUNE 30, 2008, AND JUNE 30, 2009

County Manager Haynes explained that cost allocation plans are a means of determining the County's cost for programs funded by the federal government so that an application for the cost of staff time can be made to the federal government. Mr. Haynes recommended that the Board approve the proposal from MGT of American, Inc. to prepare cost allocation reports for Richmond County fiscal years ending June 30, 2007, June 30, 2008, and June 30, 2009.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Wilson and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to accept the proposal by MGT of America, Inc. to prepare cost allocation reports for Richmond County. Commissioner Maske confirmed that this would still be advantageous to the County even this late in the year. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 30 – OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Robinette mentioned that Director of Community Services B. K. Jones had lost his father and his grandfather last week and asked that his family be remembered in thought and prayer.

Commissioner Dillman inquired about meeting with the municipalities as had been referenced in the Strategic Plan, and it was agreed that such a meeting should be set after July 1.

Commissioner Dillman asked County Attorney Futrell if he had an opportunity to further investigate the NACo Prescription Drug Plan. Mr. Futrell was asked to report back to the Board on the NACo Prescription Drug Plan.

There was no further business for discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M. by a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried.

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