

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MID-MONTH MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008, 12:00 NOON**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Mid-Month Noon Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 12:00 Noon 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.

ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner J. C. Watkins.

ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

ITEM NO. 3 – CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL DATES FOR 2008 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW MEETINGS

Tax Administrator Butch Greene requested that the Board consider establishing two additional dates for the Board of Equalization and Review to hear tax appeals. Mr. Greene advised that there are many more appeals to consider, and he anticipated more appeals to be filed.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to hold the next Equalization and Review Meeting immediately following the May 20 mid-month noon meeting, and if needed, following the June 17 mid-month noon meeting.

ITEM NO. 4 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR FIRE PROTECTION FEES FOR ROCKINGHAM, HAMLET AND ELLERBE

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Amendment to appropriate Fire Protection Fees for Rockingham, Hamlet, and Ellerbe as the result of fees coming in at higher than anticipated levels due to property values:

Expenditures:

554340-9150	Fire Protection Fees Disbursed (Hamlet)	Increase by	\$15,000.00
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Revenues:

554340-31104	Current Fire Fees Collected (Hamlet)	Increase by	\$15,000.00
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Expenditures:

594340-9150 Fire Protection Fees Disbursed (Rockingham) Increase by \$5,000.00

Revenues:

594340-311004 Current Fire Fees Collected (Rockingham) Increase by \$5,000.00

Expenditures:

584340-9150 Fire Protection Fees Disbursed (Ellerbe) Increase by \$6,000.00

Revenues:

584340-311004 Current Fire Fees Collected (Ellerbe) Increase by \$6,000.00

ITEM NO. 5 – CONSIDERATION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN RANDOM MOMENTS TIME STUDY

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Revision for the Health Department to participate in the Random Moments Time Study conducted by Public Consulting Inc. for the State Medicaid Office:

Revenue:

Quality Control RMTS Acct. # to be Established Increase by \$7,509.00

Expenditures: Quality Control

Office Supplies	115217-4210	Increase by	\$2,000.00
Travel/Conference	115217-4300	Increase by	\$3,000.00
Postage	115217-4305	Increase by	\$ 500.00
Telephone	115217-4310	Increase by	<u>\$2,009.00</u>
TOTAL			<u>\$7,509.00</u>

ITEM NO. 6 – CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE WEEK OF APRIL 13-19, 2008 AS “HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL WEEK”

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution to designate the week of April 13-19, 2008 as “Human Relations Council Week” in Richmond County. Commissioner Watkins explained that this board was established in 1999 as a volunteer board to assist agencies with daily operations. Mr. Watkins noted that the annual banquet is to be held on Saturday night.

**RESOLUTION
HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL WEEK
APRIL 13-19, 2008**

WHEREAS, in an effort to insure fair and equitable opportunity for all citizens of Richmond County, the Board of Commissioners, in conjunction with the City of Rockingham, established the Richmond County Human Relations Council in May of 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Human Relations Council serves as an advocate for all citizens without regard to race, creed, national origin, gender, race, age or handicap; and

WHEREAS, Richmond County is home to a diversity of cultures, religions, and nationalities, and each of these citizens is respected on his own merit in a community where genuine equality of all persons is a recognizable fact; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Human Relations Council have themselves served as role models, as they represent a variety of backgrounds, professions and cultures who all share a common goal of promoting unity through diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners takes this opportunity to recognize the outstanding dedicated service of the Human Relations Council by designating the week of April 13-19, 2008 as "Human Relations Council Week" in Richmond County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all cultures and nationalities of Richmond County's richly diverse population shall be highlighted during the Human Relations Council Banquet on April 19, 2008.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners this 15th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 7 - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE WEEK OF APRIL 13-19, 2008 AS "NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL APPRECIATION WEEK"

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution to designate the week of April 13-19, 2008 as "National Animal Control Appreciation Week:"

**RESOLUTION
NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL APPRECIATION WEEK
APRIL 13-19, 2008**

WHEREAS, the National Animal Control Association has designated the second week of April each year as Animal Control Appreciation Week; and

WHEREAS, various Federal, State, and Local Government Officials throughout the Country take this time to recognize, thank, and commend all Animal Control Officers for the dedicated service they provide to the citizens, along with the various public safety and public service agencies that provide this service throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the shocking and dramatic turn of events of one single day - September 11, 2001, caught everyone by surprise and struck the very heart of our society with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the dedication, honor and respect for those individuals serving on the front lines as firefighters, rescue personnel, Police Officers and Animal Control Officers was never greater or more strikingly illustrated; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners would like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation for the outstanding service that the various public safety and public service agencies, along with Animal Control Officers, provide on a daily basis to the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners recognizes and commends the Animal Control Officers for the many dedicated and long hours of service that they perform in serving this community, and for their commitment to providing the highest and most efficient level of customer service; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners takes this opportunity to commend each and every Animal Control Officer for their service, which is in keeping with the long and distinguished tradition of the Animal Control Profession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Commissioners does hereby officially recognize the week of April 13-19, 2008 as "Animal Control Appreciation Week", and respectfully requests that all citizens join in expressing sincere gratitude for the dedicated service provided by these individuals,

along with all public safety, public health ,and public service personnel who insure the safety and wellbeing of our citizens.

Adopted this 15th day of April, 2008.

ITEM NO. 8 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATOR

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Mark K. Pankey to serve as Animal Cruelty Investigator as recommended.

ITEM NO. 9 – CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Budget Amendment for Water Improvements:

Expenditures:

617110-5140	Water Improvements	Increase by	\$118,305.30
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Revenues:

617110-392001	Transfer from General Fund	Increase by	\$118,305.30
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ITEM NO. 10 – DECISION ON RZM-2008-2 – REZONING PETITION FILED BY MR. ROBERT C. MILLIKEN; R. A. AND ADVILA MILLIKEN; AND ROBERT A MILLIKEN, III AND RITA

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong provided a large map of the country club area in the U.S. 1 North area and pointed out the 1,000 ft. corridor zone. Mr. Armstrong pointed out the Milliken property and reiterated that the Highway Overlay District had nothing to do with this property.

Commissioner Watkins confirmed that mobile homes are not allowed in this zoning area and that it would set a precedent if allowed on the Milliken property. Mr. Armstrong confirmed that the corridor was designed to protect the area from manufactured homes and the reason that the Planning Board had denied the rezoning request on a 5 to 1 vote.

Commissioner Dillman confirmed that if this area were zoned Rural Residential, then mobile homes would be allowed in the area.

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board supported the Planning Board decision to deny rezoning request RZM-2008-2.

ITEM NO. 11 – REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO

Director of Development Rick Sago advised the Board that Richmond Economic Development Corporation had met at noon and given approval of a new President – Kenneth Robinette, and Bennett Deane as Vice-President. The Development Corporation also approved a loan from Pee Dee Electric for a new shell building in the amount of \$500,000.00.

Mr. Sago reported that work is scheduled to begin right away on the SRB project.

Mr. Sago reminded the Board of the drag race on the upcoming weekend and then the ARCA race at the speedway on May 4.

Commissioner Dillman encouraged advertising in the surrounding counties for the May 4 race.

Mr. Sago advised that in a recent visit with a client from Vermont, the client commented on how affordable taxes are in Richmond County. Mr. Sago assured the Board that he continues to emphasize the positive.

Mr. Sago suggested that a letter of thanks be written in behalf of the Board of Commissioners to the Development Team members who recently rotated off the board.

Commissioner Watkins commented on what an asset Bill Webb's hunt preserve is to the County, and Chairman Robinette expressed appreciation to Bill Webb for so graciously treating clients to a day at the preserve. Chairman Robinette further noted that this is one of finest hunt preserves in the country. Mr. Sago thanked Chairman Robinette for entertaining clients at The National, and he commended Chris DeWitt for hosting clients at his facility.

There was discussion of a recent finding of contaminated wells in Montgomery County identified by the State as a result of past years of pesticide use for peach crops in this area. Chairman Robinette stated that Richmond County has water available for residential use and there is a possibility of availability of grant funds that would benefit both Montgomery and Richmond County to work together to run water lines. Chairman Robinette noted that one option is for Montgomery County to purchase water from Richmond County at the county line.

County Manager Haynes advised the Board that the estimated cost to run 25,000 ft. water lines into the areas where wells have been contaminated is \$583,785.00. Meanwhile, Mr. Haynes advised that water will be available for these residents in Norman at the community center. Mr. Haynes advised that Montgomery County has requested expansion of residential lines with their money and that the water point be set up at the community center. Mr. Haynes went on to say that study of the area is needed to determine feasibility and cost for expansion, and he noted that some wells in the same area were not contaminated.

Commissioner Maske asked about the location of water lines, and Mr. Haynes advised that lines would run along Hwy. 220 for approximately 1.9 miles. Mr. Haynes advised that water would be available for residents by this weekend at Norman Community Center.

Chairman Robinette emphasized the importance of a good neighbor policy in assisting Montgomery County with water needs.

Commissioner Dillman offered a motion to provide water for Montgomery County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Commissioner Garner added that this would depend upon how much Montgomery County wants the County to participate, but that Richmond County is here to assist if they want us to. Commissioner Garner stated that selling water to Montgomery County would likely be our primary position. County Manager Haynes added that

water could be sold from a metering point. Commissioner Maske recommended a 99 year lease on any water lines installed.

Chairman Robinette noted that this could benefit our citizens with a water tank to serve Derby area.

The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dillman asked if Richmond County wells are being tested, and Chairman Robinette advised that well are being tested by the State now.

County Manager Haynes advised that the \$21,000,000.00 loan for the judicial center has closed; the pre-construction conference will be held in the next week; and within 60 days construction activity should begin.

Commissioner Dillman suggested that the letter opposing the proposed Marlboro County landfill should be sent by Registered Mail and that it was well written. Chairman Robinette emphasized that the letter must be concise and factual.

Chairman Robinette thanked County Manager Haynes for his quick response to the water problem in Montgomery County.

**ITEM NO.12 – ADJOURNMENT TO RECONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
AND REVIEW AT 1:30 P.M.**

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M. by a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried.

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