

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008, 6:30 P.M.**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. with the following present: Chairman Kenneth R. Robinette; Vice-Chairman John B. Garner; Commissioners Peggy Covington, Pamela N. Dillman, Jimmy L. Maske, Thad Ussery, and Paul Wilson, Jr.

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

**ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION BY REV. COLIN SHAW, BEREAVEMENT
COUNSELOR AT RICHMOND COUNTY HOSPICE AND PASTOR AT PARK
AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM, NC**

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Colin Shaw of Park Avenue Presbyterian Church and Richmond County Hospice.

Chairman Robinette welcomed newly elected Commissioner Peggy Covington to the Board.

Commissioner Covington thanked the voters for their support, and she stated that she looks forward to serving on the Board.

ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Robinette noted that Commissioner Watkins has been serving on the Water Committee, and he asked that the Board consider an amendment to the Agenda to include a Commission appointee to serve on the Water Committee.

Commissioner Ussery offered a motion to amend the Agenda to add appointment of a Water Committee member. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to approve agenda as amended.

ITEM NO. 3 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

At this point, Chairman Robinette deferred to County Manager Haynes to serve as temporary Chairman of the meeting for election of officers.

County Manager Haynes stated that this makes anyone eligible to make nominations for the office of Chairman.

Commissioner Dillman nominated Commissioner John Garner for the office of Chairman.

Commissioner Maske nominated Commissioner Kenneth Robinette.

There were no further nominations, and County Manager Haynes declared the nominations for the office of Chairman closed.

The vote, taken in reverse order, was as follows:

For Commissioner Robinette: Commissioners Maske, Covington, Ussery, Garner, Wilson, and Robinette

Opposed: Commissioner Dillman

For Commissioner Garner: Commissioner Dillman

Chairman Robinette was declared Chairman by majority vote.

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

Chairman Robinette nominated Commissioner John Garner for the office of Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Dillman offered a motion to close nominations, and Commissioner Garner was declared Vice-Chairman by unanimous acclamation.

Chairman Robinette thanked the Board for their support and for allowing him to continue to serve as Chairman.

Commissioner Garner pledged his support of Chairman Robinette and thanked the Board for his nomination as Vice-Chairman.

ITEM NO. 5 – APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to reappoint Mr. Stephan R. Futrell as County Attorney.

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

A) APPEARANCE BY MS. LISA ENGLAND, MRS. JO ANNE WILSON, AND MR. BILLY WILSON TO DISCUSS CONTAMINATED WELLS IN FOX ROAD AREA (10-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Ms. Lisa England appeared before the Board to discuss the issue of contaminated wells that have been identified in the Fox Road area. Ms. England congratulated the Board members who have been re-elected. Ms. England discussed the hardships of dealing with a contaminated well and stated that those whose wells have been identified as contaminated have had their lives turned upside down. Ms. England indicated that she

had been told not to attend the November 12 meeting, and she emphasized that the citizens have a right to appeal to the Board for help.

Mr. Billy Wilson congratulated those who were re-elected, and he made reference to the recent community meeting and the discussion of grant funds. Mr. Wilson questioned why the grant funds would be used to connect to a main loop rather than running water lines to the residents of Fox Road. Mr. Wilson advised of a community fundraiser to purchase materials to run a water line to a family in the Fox Road area whose daughter has cancer.

Mrs. Jo Anne Wilson thanked the Board for allowing her to speak, and she expressed appreciation for the County's help. Mrs. Wilson advised that their pond is being tested, and that she would advise the Board of the test results.

ITEM NO. 7 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON:

A) PROPOSED LOCAL INCENTIVE PACKAGE

The Public Hearing to consider a proposed local incentive package was declared open at 6:48 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.

Director of Development Rick Sago referred to the March 11, 2008 hearing, at which time the SRB Holdings project was approved. Mr. Sago advised that the start-up of construction had been later than anticipated, so an amendment to the original agreement is recommended to clarify Paragraph 3 (d) pertaining to the Reverter Clause and stating that construction would begin within a year. Mr. Sago further noted that an amendment is needed for Paragraph 3 (e) which stated that the facility would be open and offer employment opportunities for 100 jobs by September 2009.

There were no other speakers, and the Board was asked to approve the amendments explained by Mr. Sago. The hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette at 6:50 P.M.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery and seconded by Commissioner Dillman to approve amendments to the original SRB Holdings Agreement. Commissioner Ussery asked if additional square footage has been added to the building plans, and Mr. Sago advised that 310,000 sq. ft. had been planned all along. Commissioner Maske asked when the SRB distribution center is projected to open, and Mr. Sago confirmed September 2009.

The motion to approve amendments to the SRB Holdings Agreement carried unanimously.

B) PROPOSED REVISION TO EXISTING INCENTIVE AGREEMENT

The Public Hearing to consider a proposed incentive package for the Economic Development Grant Contract between Richmond County and Rockingham Speedway, Inc. was declared open at 6:50 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.

Director of Development Rick Sago advised that Mr. Andy Hillenburg purchased the speedway and provided full-time employment for 9 people. Due to significant upgrades to the facility and increased investment, the Board is asked to consider a grant to Mr. Hillenburg equal to \$12,960.00 per year on January 31 of each year, beginning January 31, 2009 and continuing each consecutive year until 5 grants have been made.

There were no other speakers, and the hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette at 6:52 P.M.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve the Economic Development Grant Contract between Richmond County and Mr. Andy Hillenburg for Rockingham Speedway.

ITEM NO. 8 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RICK SAGO

Director of Development Rick Sago advised the Board that a 150-lap race is scheduled at Rockingham Speedway with 99 cars on January 1. Mr. Sago reported that the Department of Commerce has ranked Richmond County as a Tier 1 County again for 2009, which he pointed out does make the County eligible to receive maximum state incentives to assist existing and new industries.

In discussion of BRAC, Mr. Sago noted that jobs will be created in the future, and BRAC is seeking people who are looking for jobs by establishing a web site and through an RFP.

Mr. Sago advised that SRB Holdings was in town recently to see the building site, and that the company officials were impressed with the industrial park site for their distribution center and with Richmond County Airport.

Mr. Sago advised that in spite of the slow economy, he continues to see client activity.

Commissioner Dillman asked if Jim McCaskill is still working with the County on BRAC activities and whether this is a salaried position. Mr. Sago advised that Mr. McCaskill is attending BRAC meetings and that he is compensated on an hourly basis.

ITEM NO. 9 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL TO ABANDON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIGHT-OF-WAY AT RICHMOND COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mr. Sago requested that the Board consider abandonment of a DOT right-of-way agreement for Richmond County Industrial Park. Mr. Sago explained that the right-of-way agreement is no longer needed due to the site of the new SRB Holdings building.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to approve abandonment of the DOT Right-of-Way Agreement in

Richmond County Industrial Park with Chairman Robinette authorized to execute in behalf of the County.

ITEM NO. 10 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG

A) UPDATE ON EAST ROCKINGHAM INITIATIVE – SAFIE MILL PROPERTY

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised the Board that he hoped to have more information on the Safie Mill property in the next 30 to 60 days.

Commissioner Dillman felt that the County should not spend money on the Safie property, and she stated that she has been made aware that dye was poured onto this property over the years. Mr. Armstrong asked that Commissioner Dillman provide names of the individuals who have this information so that the contamination can be investigated. Mr. Armstrong added that clean-up of the Safie property could become a county issue since the property owners do not have the resources for clean-up of the site.

B) PETITION TO NAME NEW ROAD

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that Mr. James Carriker has submitted a petition to name a new private road next to Hospice on U.S. Hwy. 1 North. Mr. Armstrong asked that the Board authorize a public hearing to consider the following 3 road names as submitted by Mr. Carriker: Trinity Way; Trinity Way Road; or Trinity Lane.

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board authorized a public hearing during the January 5, 2009 Regular Meeting to consider naming of the new road as petitioned.

ITEM NO. 11 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES

In response to comments made earlier in the meeting concerning contaminated wells in the Fox Road area, County Manager Haynes assured that Director of Community Services B. K. Jones had advised citizens in the Fox Road area that the same action would have been taken on the well complaints whether the group attended the November 12 community meeting or not. Mr. Haynes further stated that by June 18, 60 wells had been tested. Mr. Haynes emphasized that the only means of providing water to the Fox Road area residents is to run 7.1 miles of water line to connect to the existing line as a loop, and the possibility of residents sharing non-contaminated wells was only a suggestion for a temporary solution to the problem.

In discussion of the County's efforts to secure funding for the project, Mr. Haynes advised that there is a verbal commitment of \$1.1 million in grant funds through the Rural Center and USDA, and the most recent cost estimates for the project are \$1.3 to

\$1.9 million. Mr. Haynes advised that the County has received authorization from Public Water Supply to construct the lines; the N.C. DOT encroachment agreement was received on November 24; and consulting engineers have been authorized to proceed with a bid package by January. Mr. Haynes added that Richmond County is actually running 6 months ahead of what a neighboring county is doing in addressing the same kind of problem there.

Chairman Robinette thanked the County Manager for the update on the Fox Road water line project. County Manager Haynes acknowledged that the process is much slower than he would like, but the proper steps must be followed in order to obtain funding.

Commissioner Ussery confirmed that grant funds must be used for lines on public roads, and he asked about the possibility of hook-up grants for private connections.

Mr. Haynes advised that there are no funds for private connections at this time, but perhaps such funding could be pursued in 2009 for citizens who may qualify.

County Manager Haynes noted that during the last session of the Legislature local tax grants were awarded for veterans who are 100% disabled, and there are 200 veterans locally who may qualify for this tax relief.

In discussion of the tax collection rate, Mr. Haynes advised that the current rate of collection is 35.91%, compared to 28.26% at the end of November last year. Mr. Haynes also advised that \$18,286.00 in taxes has been collected through electronic payments made with credit cards.

In discussion of the economy, Mr. Haynes emphasized that the State budget is our main concern, as this will affect what we can do in this county. Mr. Haynes referenced a November memo in which he had made the Board aware of a projected \$1 billion shortfall in state revenues. However, Mr. Haynes advised that the anticipated state shortfall is now up to \$2.5 billion. Mr. Haynes pointed out that this becomes a problem for counties in terms of Medicaid cost to counties since the State would likely default on the commitment of Medicaid relief to counties. Mr. Haynes stated that this would result in an automatic additional \$5 million cost to Richmond County that is not budgeted. In further discussion of the state budget, Mr. Haynes reminded the Board that the Legislature had discussed the possibility of counties assuming responsibility for the cost of road maintenance. In further discussion, Mr. Haynes noted that a deficit in the state budget could also affect the cost allocation of positions at Social Services, which could mean considerable cost to counties. In anticipation of the state budget shortfall, Mr. Haynes advised that the schools and RCC have already been asked to return a portion of their state funding allocation.

At this point, County Manager Haynes recommended an immediate freeze on spending in the county budget. Mr. Haynes recommended that all county travel be cancelled for employees, Board members, and staff; a freeze on all positions that are currently vacant; all capital purchases be cancelled; and purchase of all equipment and office supplies be suspended except necessities. Mr. Haynes also suggested that the Board

notify the non-departmental agencies that receive county funds that these funds may not be available in next year's budget. In summation, County Manager Haynes emphasized that no mistakes have been made in the County's budget projections and planning, but he felt confident that the burden of the State budget shortfall will be passed along to counties.

Mr. Haynes reminded the Board of action recently taken authorizing the County Attorney to write a letter to Attorney General Cooper requesting appropriate action concerning the proposed municipal landfill in South Carolina. Mr. Haynes advised that a response has been received from the Attorney General's office on November 21, and he read the letter to the Board. Mr. Haynes noted that the County has already made contact with all of the appropriate agencies and authorities to document Richmond County's concerns as recommended in the letter.

Commissioner Dillman noted that Attorney General Cooper apparently is not aware that these contacts have been made, and she emphasized her concern that Richmond County would be the only entranceway to the landfill site. Commissioner Dillman went on to offer to take information to the Attorney General on her own time. Commissioner Dillman stated that "we are talking about bad wells here in Richmond County. Bad wells will happen again in 40, 50 years, or 20 years; there will be problems again from leakage of whatever they put in the ground. We are in close encounters and there will be some more problems. I think being the great county that we are and how we want to respond to our folks here, we really need to do every attempt that we can to let North Carolina know the extremity and what a problem we do have, and we are doing the best that we can, but we need their help." Commissioner Dillman asked that the County Manager make an appointment for her to meet with Attorney General Cooper as Richmond County's representative. County Manager Haynes suggested that Representative Goodwin might have more clout in getting the appointment with the Attorney General.

Mr. Haynes referred to the monthly Solid Waste Report, noting that 1.1 tons of trash was picked up along roadways last month along 16 miles of roadway, and 48 hours of Community Service labor was utilized.

County Manager Haynes referenced the Sheriff's monthly report, noting that 10,154 citizens have passed through the metal detector at the front door of the courthouse during the month of November.

In response to the County Manager's recommendation, a motion was offered by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Maske to authorize the County Manager to implement an immediate freeze on the County budget. Commissioner Dillman confirmed that the freeze would also apply to salaries, and she asked how long the freeze would be in place. Chairman Robinette confirmed that the freeze would remain in effect through the end of the budget year and pending state actions. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 12 – APPEARANCE BY CPA ALAN THOMPSON OF THOMPSON, PRICE, SCOTT, ADAMS & CO., P.A. FOR PRESENTATION OF AUDIT REPORT FOR RICHMOND COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008

CPA Alan Thompson of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. provided copies of Richmond County's audit report to each Board member and presented the Management Letter. Mr. Thompson reported that there were no significant findings in the unqualified audit report, and he thanked the Board for the opportunity to perform the audit.

Mr. Thompson discussed the Cash Flow Determination Sheet and recommended that the Board focus on the areas of the budget that can be controlled. Mr. Thompson offered to answer any questions that the Board might have.

Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Thompson for his presentation.

Commissioner Maske asked what percentage of the total budget the Board can control, and County Manager Haynes confirmed that the Board only has control over 16 to 23% of the budget.

ITEM NO. 13 – APPEARANCE BY FIRST HEALTH EMS-RICHMOND DIRECTOR GRANT HUNSUCKER FOR PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

FirstHealth EMS-Richmond Director Grant Hunsucker appeared before the Board to present the annual report of EMS activities. Mr. Hunsucker stated that FirstHealth has provided the highest level of pre-hospital care to Richmond County since February 1998. In his report, Mr. Hunsucker noted that FirstHealth continues to provide quality countywide Paramedic EMS system; this is the 11th year of fire and rescue chiefs' meetings in an effort to foster cooperation among rescue squads; training officers monitor 85 clinical training records from Richmond EMS staff and rescue squads, including Hamlet Rescue and EMS; focus continues on enhanced patient care protocols; two retired ambulances were donated to county departments; and in January induced cooling by EMS post cardiac resuscitation protocol will begin. Mr. Hunsucker reported a very busy year with a big increase in call volume – a total of 7,556 responses in 2008 – an increase of 549 responses from the prior year. Mr. Hunsucker advised that average response time is 9 minutes, and additional staff is added during peak times at no additional expense to the County. Mr. Hunsucker advised that EMS continues to work closely with Emergency Management throughout the year, and he thanked the Board of Commissioners for the continuing opportunity to provide service.

Commissioner Ussery was complimentary of the advanced level of Paramedic care, and he expressed his personal appreciation for the service recently rendered to him. Commissioner Ussery went on to emphasize the importance of this level of care, especially in rural counties.

Commissioner Wilson expressed the same appreciation from his personal experience.

Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Hunsucker for his report and for the services rendered to the citizens of Richmond County by FirstHealth EMS.

ITEM NO. 14 – APPEARANCE BY SANDHILLS CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL WATSON FOR PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

Sandhills Center Area Director Michael Watson thanked the Board for the opportunity to present an Annual Report. Mr. Watson discussed issues confronting community mental health, citing three main issues: crisis services; additional money for in-patient psychiatric services; and issues with funding and patient care through provider development. Due to a shortfall in the State budget, Mr. Watson advised that the mental health system has been asked to return state funds in the current year budget totalling \$1 to \$1.2 million. Mr. Watson emphasized the difficulty in cutting back on in-patient psychiatric care. In discussion of provider development, Mr. Watson advised that they have partnered with UNC Family Health to select 40 licensed clinicians to be trained in the best practice training program to deal with childhood trauma. Mr. Watson stressed that the focus of resources is to impact what happens for our citizens.

Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Watson for the update on mental health services.

ITEM NO. 15 – 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) BOARD APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 3, 2008 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK**

- B) TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$16,694.23 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$5,325.20 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES BY REFERENCE.**

- C) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ADDITIONAL CANCER PROGRAM FUNDS**

CANCER PROGRAM

REVENUE:

115180-333104	State Reimbursement	Increase	\$ 4,636.34
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

EXPENDITURES:

115180-4210	Office Supplies	Increase	\$ 500.00
115180-4220	Medical Supplies	Increase	1,000.00
115180-4275	Purchases Subj to Inv	Increase	2,436.34
115180-4300	Travel	Increase	500.00
115180-4305	Postage	Increase	<u>200.00</u>
Total Increase			\$ 4,636.34

**D) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO
DECREASE WIC-GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUNDING**

WIC – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

REVENUE:

115140-335002	State Reimbursement	Decrease	(\$ 1,806.00)
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	----------------------

EXPENDITURES:

115140-4100	Salaries: Regular	Decrease	(\$ 1,420.00)
115140-4110	FICA	Decrease	(110.00)
115140-4210	Office Supplies	Decrease	(151.00)
115140-4275	Purch. Subj. To Inv.	Decrease	(125.00)
Total Expense Decrease			(\$ 1,806.00)

**E) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO
INCREASE WIC-BREASTFEEDING FUNDING**

WIC – Breastfeeding

REVENUE:

115142-333042	State Reimbursement	Increase	\$ 1,177.00
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

EXPENDITURES:

115142-4100	Salaries: Reg	Increase	\$ 750.00
115142-4110	FICA	Increase	100.00
115142-4120	Group Insurance	Increase	127.00
115142-4130	Retirement	Increase	100.00
115142-4135	SUPP Retirement	Increase	100.00
Total Increase			\$ 1,177.00

**F) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO
APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN FUNDS
FOR LOCAL CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTANT PROGRAM**

Smart Start Child Care Health Consultant

Revenue:

115208-333138	Smart Start Child Care Health Consultant	Increase	\$16,200.00
----------------------	---	-----------------	--------------------

Expenditures:

115208-4100	Salaries: Regular	Increase	\$ 6,925.00
115208-4110	FICA	Increase	530.00
115208-4120	Group Insurance	Increase	719.00
115208-4130	Retirement	Increase	341.00
115208-4135	Supplemental Retirement	Increase	485.00
115208-4210	Office Supplies	Increase	1,300.00
115208-4212	Auto Supplies	Increase	200.00
115208-4275	Purchases Subject to Inventory	Increase	4,000.00
115208-4300	Travel	Increase	1,000.00
115208-4305	Postage	Increase	300.00
115208-4310	Telephone	Increase	400.00
Total			\$16,200.00

G) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN FUNDS FOR BILINGUAL HEALTH CHECK PROGRAM

Smart Start Bilingual Health Check

Revenue:

115219-333142	Smart Start Bilingual Health Check	Increase	\$ 1,750.00
----------------------	---	-----------------	--------------------

Expenditures:

115219-4210	Office Supplies	Increase	\$ 500.00
115219-4275	Purchases Subj to Inv.	Increase	250.00
115219-4300	Travel & Conference	Increase	500.00
115219-4305	Postage	Increase	<u>500.00</u>

Total **\$1,750.00**

H) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO REFLECT DECREASE IN PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN FUNDING FOR THE DENTAL VARNISH PROGRAM

Smart Start – Dental Varnish

Revenue:

115200-333136	Smart Start – Dental Varnish	Decrease	(\$ 450.00)
----------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

Expenditures:

115200-4100	Salaries: Regular	Decrease	(\$ 273.00)
115200-4110	FICA	Decrease	(57.00)
115200-4120	Group Insurance	Decrease	(20.00)
115200-4130	Retirement	Decrease	(23.00)
115200-4135	Supplemental Retirement	Decrease	(19.00)
115200-4210	Office Supplies	Decrease	<u>(58.00)</u>

Total **(\$ 450.00)**

I) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS TO INCREASE WIC-CLIENT SERVICES

WIC – CLIENT SERVICES

REVENUE:

115141-333039	State Reimbursement	Increase	\$ 7,794.00
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

EXPENDITURES:

115141-4210	Office Supplies	Increase	\$ 2,000.00
115141-4212	Auto Supplies	Increase	1,000.00
115141-4220	Medical Supplies	Increase	2,794.00
115141-4300	Travel	Increase	1,000.00
115141-4305	Postage	Increase	<u>1,000.00</u>

Total Increase **\$ 7,794.00**

J) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDS FOR MATERNAL HEALTH CLINIC FOR HIGH-RISK MATERNAL HEALTH CLIENTS

MATERNAL HEALTH

REVENUE:

115160-333009	State Reimbursement	Increase	\$10,259.00
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

EXPENDITURES

115160-4210	Office Supplies	Increase	\$ 959.00
115160-4212	Auto Supplies	Increase	800.00
115160-4220	Medical Supplies	Increase	5,000.00
115160-4300	Travel & Conference	Increase	2,000.00
115160-4305	Postage	Increase	500.00
115160-4310	Telephone	Increase	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total			\$10,259.00

K) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING FOR IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN

IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN

REVENUE:

115193-333201	State Reimbursement	Increase	\$3,000.00
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	-------------------

EXPENDITURES:

115193-4275	Purchases Subj. to Inv.	Increase	\$3,000.00
--------------------	--------------------------------	-----------------	-------------------

L) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL STATE FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET

FAMILY PLANNING

REVENUE:

115130-333010	State Reimbursement	Increase	\$ 9,854.00
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

EXPENDITURES:

115130-4100	Salaries: Reg	Increase	\$ 6,175.00
115130-4110	FICA	Increase	\$ 473.00
115130-4120	Group Insurance	Increase	\$ 430.00
115130-4130	Retirement	Increase	\$ 182.00
115130-4135	Supplemental Retirement	Increase	\$ 215.00
115130-4210	Office Supplies	Increase	\$ 200.00
115130-4212	Auto Supplies	Increase	\$ 454.00
115130-4275	Purchases Subj to Inventory	Increase	\$ 1,500.00
115130-4300	Travel	Increase	\$ 50.00
115130-4305	Postage	Increase	\$ 25.00
115130-4310	Telephone	Increase	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
Total			\$ 9,854.00

M) BOARD APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM LOCAL HEALTH BUDGET TO VARIOUS HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET LINE ITEMS TO COVER THE INCREASED COST OF AUTO EXPENSES: GAS, OIL, MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

N) BOARD APPROVAL OF SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET AMENDMENT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM FUNDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LOW INCOME FAMILY HEATING NEEDS

EXPENDITURES:

115372-6131 CIP Increase by \$204,045.00

REVENUES:

115310-333021 CR INTV Increase by \$204,045.00

O) BOARD APPROVAL OF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS FOR SRT SUPPLIES

EXPENDITURES:

114215-4140 Merit Adjustments Decrease by \$43,650.00

114310-4200 Departmental Supplies Increase by \$43,650.00

P) REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL TO AMEND FY 2008-2009 BUDGET TO INCLUDE APPROPRIATION FOR SAMARITAN COLONY

EXPENDITURES:

114280-6152 Alcohol-Samaritan Colony Increase by \$17,000.00

REVENUES:

119900-399001 Undesignated Fund Balance Increase by \$17,000.00

Q) REQUEST FOR BOARD AUTHORIZATION FOR TAX ADMINISTRATOR TO GRANT INDIVIDUAL WRITTEN EXTENSIONS AS REQUESTED DURING LISTING PERIOD THROUGH APRIL 15, 2009

Approved as requested.

R) REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGING SERVICES TO ACCEPT RICHMOND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS TO SPONSOR 2008 SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Authorization for Aging Services Department to accept \$8,000.00 in grant funds from Richmond Community Foundation for 2008 Senior Christmas Party.

ITEM NO. 16 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PAY NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR BETTERMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY AGREEMENT FOR HWY. 220 BY PASS PROJECT

County Manager Haynes advised that during 2001 when the 220 by-pass and right-of-ways were being planned some of the waterline improvements were made at this time and are a county expense. The cost of these improvements is now being billed to the County by D.O.T. and the Board is asked to approve a budget amendment to appropriate funds for this expense.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve the following Budget Amendment, with funds to be transferred from Fund Balance. Commissioner Ussery noted the length of time involved in the billing for this expense, and County Manager Haynes confirmed that this is normal.

Expenditures:

617100-5110	Waterline Construction	Increase by \$34,297.26
119800-8169	Transfer to Water-Sewer Fund	Increase by \$34,297.26

Revenues:

617110-392001	Transfer from General Fund	Increase by \$34,297.26
11990-399001	Undesignated Fund Bal. Appropriated	Increase by \$34,297.26

ITEM NO. 17 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF AIRPORT ELEMENT OF 2010-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones presented the proposed 2010-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and briefly discussed the four main projects recommended over the next 5 years for the airport: overlay of the runway; extension of unpaved runway; instrument landing system; and Runway 13 grass taxiway. Mr. Jones explained that there is no guarantee of funding of these 90%-10% matching grants due to the State budget shortfall, but the State requires the Board to approve the TIP with the Chairman authorized to sign in behalf of the County.

By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposed 2010-2014 TIP as presented.

ITEM NO. 18 – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR TO AMEND CURRENT FLEX-TIME SCHEDULE AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES

County Manager Haynes referred to a request by Social Services Director Tammy Schrenker for authorization to offer a 4-day, 10-hour flex-time schedule to DSS employees. Mr. Haynes advised that the same services would be offered to the public, and that employees would be available in the building until 6:00 P.M. daily. Mr. Haynes

advised that if approved by the Board, this schedule would be offered on a trial basis to determine if it is practical.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that someone would be on staff all of the time.

Commissioner Ussery asked if Friday would be the only short-staffed day, and County Manager Haynes advised that hours would be 8:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. on Fridays. Mr. Haynes further advised that supervisors would not be eligible to participate in the flex-time schedule.

Commissioner Dillman noted that DSS in 15 other counties has been successful with this schedule.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to authorize Richmond County DSS to offer an amended flex-time schedule to eligible employees on a trial basis.

ITEM NO. 19 – CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSIONER APPOINTEE TO REPRESENT RICHMOND COUNTY AS MEMBER OF THE LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, Commissioner Paul Wilson, Jr. was nominated to serve as Richmond County's representative on the Lumber River Council of Governments Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried.

By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Commissioner Peggy Covington to serve on the Richmond County Water Committee.

ITEM NO. 20 – REQUEST FOR BOARD TO DESIGNATE VOTING DELEGATE FOR NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS 2009 LEGISLATIVE GOALS CONFERENCE

By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Commissioner Jimmy L. Maske to serve as Richmond County's Voting Delegate for the NCACC 2009 Legislative Goals Conference.

ITEM NO. 21 – DISCUSSION OF CHANGE IN STATE LEGISLATION THAT DISCONTINUES TIME WARNER CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH RICHMOND COUNTY

County Manager Haynes advised the Board that two years ago the State had changed legislation that took away counties' authority to franchise cable TV service providers. Along with discontinuation of counties' franchising authority for cable service, the franchise fees paid to counties now are paid to the State of North Carolina. In Richmond County, Mr. Haynes advised that those fees had amounted to approximately

\$125,000.00, and this revenue will now be paid to the State. Mr. Haynes further advised that for a number of years Time Warner has provided the public service of taping and broadcasting the Board of Commissioners' regular meetings on the local government cable channel at no cost to the County for the equipment nor for the taping and broadcast service. However, Time Warner has now discontinued this service, so the Board must decide if broadcast of the meetings is to be continued through a private contractor at a quoted cost of \$660.00 per meeting. Mr. Haynes noted that the equipment originally purchased by Time Warner and donated to the County is old and the quality of the broadcast is sometimes not good, but the estimated cost to replace this equipment is \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

Commissioner Ussery stated that he was not in favor of spending the money for upgrade of equipment, and he acknowledged that he has received complaints about the sound quality of the meeting broadcasts due to old equipment. Commissioner Ussery asked private contractor Chuck Sauls, who had offered a proposal to continue taping the meetings, about the condition of the equipment. Mr. Sauls confirmed that the equipment is old and needs replacement, but he hoped to be able to purchase new audio and video equipment within 5 to 6 months if he is contracted to provide this service.

A motion was then offered by Commissioner Ussery to continue taping and broadcast of County Commission regular meetings through a private contract as proposed by Chuck Sauls - using the existing equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dillman, who suggested that the County might apply for grant funds to recover the monthly cost of filming the meetings. Commissioner Dillman also asked how long the meetings would be taped through private contract. Chairman Robinette noted that grants are generally not awarded to fund recurring expenses such as the monthly broadcast cost. Commissioner Ussery amended his original motion to include that the County would seek any grant funds that might be available to fund the broadcast cost and that the contractual arrangement with Chuck Sauls should continue through the end of the current fiscal year – June 30, 2009. The motion and amendments carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 22 – REQUEST FOR BOARD TO CONSIDER CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 16, 2008 REGULAR MID-MONTH NOON MEETING

Due to conflicting schedules during December and no immediate need for Board action on items of business, a motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to cancel the December 16, 2008 Regular Mid-Month Noon Meeting.

Commissioner Dillman reminded the Board of the December deployment of troops to Iraq from the Hamlet National Guard and urged everyone to remember these troops and their families in thoughts and prayers.

There being no further business for discussion, a motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

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