

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009, 6:30 P.M.**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 5, 2009 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. 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

Chairman Robinette suggested that the Board consider amendment to the Agenda in order to consider cancellation of the Mid-Month Noon Meeting scheduled for January 20, 2009 since there is no item of business requiring immediate action.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to amend the agenda to consider cancellation of the January 20, 2009 Mid-Month Regular Meeting.

A motion was then offered by Commissioner Ussery to cancel the January 20 Mid-Month Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Commissioner Dillman questioned cancellation of the mid-month meeting. Chairman Robinette recommended that the meeting should be cancelled if not needed, and it was noted by Commissioner Covington that this is also Inauguration Day. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A) APPEARANCE BY MS. LISA ENGLAND TO DISCUSS CONTAMINATED WELLS IN FOX ROAD AREA (5-MIN. PRESENTATION)

Ms. Lisa England appeared before the Board to discuss the continuing inconvenience of well problems in the Fox Road area. Ms. England requested that the County provide a monthly written update on the status of extending water lines to the area. Ms. England advised that she is continuing to pursue obtaining right-of-ways from property owners in the area but she has broken her foot and had a death in her family that slowed her progress.

Commissioner Covington commented on County Manager Haynes' excellent update on the well situation at the last meeting, and she asked Ms. England what is it that the citizens would now like the County to be doing in addition to what is already being done. Ms. England replied that she would like water lines to be extended to their homes. Ms. England noted that they are drinking bottled water and they want county water.

Commissioner Dillman advised that she had called Planning Director Jamie Armstrong that day to discuss maps showing where existing water lines are located and where new lines on Fox Road would be.

Commissioner Covington verified that Ms. England is requesting private connections to the homes in the Fox Road area.

Commissioner Dillman stated that grant funds may be available for home connections.

ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER NAMING OF NEW PRIVATE ROAD OFF U.S. HWY. 1 NORTH ADJACENT TO RICHMOND COUNTY HOSPICE FACILITY

At 6:40 P.M. Chairman Robinette declared the Public Hearing open to consider naming of a private road located off U.S. Hwy. 1 North adjacent to Richmond County Hospice.

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that Mr. James Carriker had petitioned for naming of the new private road one of the following three names:

Trinity Way (preferred name)
Trinity Way Road
Trinity Lane

Mr. Armstrong advised that the hearing is being held in accordance with General Statute requirements, and there was no opposition to the preferred road name, Trinity Way.

There were no other speakers for or against the preferred name, Trinity Way, and the hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette at 6:42 P.M.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve naming of the new road as Trinity Way.

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

A) CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR REFUND OF MONEY ON PROPERTY PURCHASED AT 2005 COUNTY AUCTION

Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised the Board that a request has been made by the House of Prayer Feed My People Ministry for a refund for property purchased during the 2005 auction of county property. Mr. Armstrong advised that the House of Prayer is requesting a refund for Auction Lot #45 - \$550.00; Auction Lot #52 - \$350.00; and Auction

Lot #120 - \$300.00. Mr. Armstrong noted that Lot #120 had been conveyed to the church by Mr. James Jones, and the church is now requesting a refund of \$300.00 for this lot. Mr. Armstrong reminded the Board that a \$300.00 refund had been granted to Bishop Thomas Wooten and the House of Prayer for another parcel purchased by the church, but due to a deed error, it was discovered that this property did not actually exist.

Commissioner Ussery confirmed that there have been no irregularities or deed errors in these auction parcels for which Rev. Wooten is requesting a refund. Mr. Armstrong advised that all of the properties are accessible, some through right-of-ways.

Chairman Robinette then recognized Rev. Wooten, who came to make the formal request in behalf of the church. Rev. Wooten advised that he has been pastor at the House of Prayer for some 14 years, and that the property had been purchased for an outreach ministry as a site for their tent during summer months. Rev. Wooten stated that the signs identifying the property at the time of the 2005 auction were wrong and that the property is landlocked and therefore not suitable for set-up of the tent to be used by the church. Rev. Wooten went on to advise that not only is the property inaccessible, but it is a creek and has been rezoned by the County as part of a floodplain. Rev. Wooten contended that the property should not have been offered to the public for sale at the auction.

Commissioner Ussery questioned Rev. Wooten about what was deceptive about the sign, and Rev. Wooten explained that he had thought that the property was located where the sign was.

Commissioner Covington confirmed with Rev. Wooten where the property in question is located - behind the houses on Zion Street and behind the houses on Hood Street near the former Nelson Funeral Home. When Commissioner Covington asked Rev. Wooten where he had thought the property was located he advised that he had thought the church was buying property on the other side of Zion Street.

Rev. Wooten went on to explain that the other piece of property donated to the church by Mr. Jones was of no use either without access through fences and other people's property. Rev. Wooten reiterated that the only reason for purchasing the property was for use for tent services.

Commissioner Ussery confirmed that Mr. Jones had donated property to the church, and he asked if the contention was that this property was also misrepresented. Rev. Wooten advised that he did not feel that this property had been deliberately misrepresented.

Commissioner Ussery offered a motion recommending that Mr. Jones and the House of Prayer should resolve the issue of the property donated by Mr. Jones and that action on the other two auction parcels - #45 and #52 should be tabled until the February 2 Meeting so that the Board has an opportunity to see the property location and determines whether the property was misrepresented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Covington. Commissioner Garner asked Rev. Wooten if anyone had given him an impression of where the property was located. Rev. Wooten advised that no one had.

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

Director of Development Rick Sago reported on the status of the Revolving Loan Fund and provided the Board with a copy of RLF criteria to qualify for a loan. Mr. Sago provided detail on the status of each loan, noting that the County Attorney is working to collect outstanding accounts that have filed for bankruptcy. Mr. Sago emphasized that the original intent of the Revolving Loan Fund was to provide gap financing for new or expanding businesses, with the loan amount not to exceed 50% of the total project. It was noted that most of these loans have been good loans that resulted in local businesses creating jobs, and 14 of the loans have been paid in full.

Commissioner Maske confirmed that all of the RLF loans are at a rate of 6% interest.

Commissioner Dillman asked how a Revolving Loan Fund application could be obtained, and Mr. Sago advised that applicants should contact him. Commissioner Dillman asked if RLF loans are primarily used for business expansions and Mr. Sago confirmed that typically they are.

Commissioner Ussery noted that applicants must meet RLF requirements.

Commissioner Covington confirmed that all RLF applicants must be a corporation and must be in good standing in North Carolina.

Mr. Sago advised that he sometimes first refers businesses to the Small Business Center at RCC, and then the Revolving Loan Fund can be used to provide gap financing that the bank cannot approve. Mr. Sago added that RLF loans are collateralized with liens on property rather than on equipment.

Commissioner Dillman asked if the County controls RLF funds. Mr. Sago advised that the County controls the funds through recommendations made by the Revolving Loan Fund Committee that are then referred to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Mr. Sago emphasized that RLF funds are not public tax dollars, as this fund was originally established with grant funds and has grown through accrual of interest payments from loan recipients.

Chairman Robinette referred to the list of loans, and he noted that H. L. Webb Trucking, Rock Industrial, and Main Street Café are all loans that were paid off or assumed by new owners.

In further discussion, Mr. Sago advised that Governor Perdue has appointed Keith Criscoe of Randolph County to head the Department of Commerce.

Mr. Sago commented on the success of Andy Hillenburg's third race hosted at Rockingham Speedway on January 1, and he thanked the community and the Board for supporting the speedway. Mr. Sago noted that in spite of a slow economy and reports indicating the worst manufacturing numbers in 28 years, there are still prospective industries considering

Richmond County as a potential site. In closing, Mr. Sago commented on the progress of the SRB Holdings facility in Richmond County Industrial Park.

Commissioner Maske asked when the SRB building is projected for completion, and Mr. Sago advised May or June, with creation of 150 jobs.

Commissioner Dillman confirmed that applications for those new jobs will become available through Employment Security Commission.

ITEM NO. 7 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO RICHMOND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Director of Development Rick Sago provided information advising that each appointing authority has been asked to appoint or reappoint a representative to the Richmond County Development Team for 2009.

Chairman Robinette stated that he currently serves as the Board of Commissioners' representative on the Development Team.

Commissioner Garner offered a motion to reappoint Chairman Robinette as the Board's representative on the Development Team. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Dillman asked who the Development Team reports to, and Chairman Robinette advised that they report to Director of Development Rick Sago.

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

County Manager Haynes commented that today is the last day for payment of property taxes without interest penalty. Mr. Haynes further advised that collections were 10% down from the prior year's collection rate until Richmond County's largest taxpayer, Progress Energy, paid today. After the Progress Energy tax payment, the collection rate is now 1.5% above last year's rate. In further discussion of tax collections, Mr. Haynes reminded the Board that the 2009-2010 budget must be prepared based on the current year collection rate, and he projected that the percentage of collection may reach 96% if we continue at the current rate. Mr. Haynes advised that the Tax Department collected more than \$4,000,000.00 today.

In discussion of a benefit that will become available in the next tax billing to disabled veterans through General Assembly action, Mr. Haynes advised that the paperwork for this benefit is now available to veterans who are rated for 100% service-related disability. Mr. Haynes advised that the forms be filed by June 2009 and must be accompanied by a doctor's statement and VA certification to verify the 100% disability.

Mr. Haynes cautioned that we do not yet know the extent of projected state budget shortfalls, but he is monitoring the County budget, and the freeze on any major purchases continues.

Mr. Haynes advised that there has been no additional information concerning water grants, but it has been confirmed that the grant agencies will meet with the County's consulting engineers to discuss the Fox Road water project. Mr. Haynes added that some grant funding hinges on a commitment from other funding sources.

County Manager Haynes referred to the Sheriff's Department December monthly report, noting that 1,356 calls were received from citizens; 257 criminal papers were served compared to 381 civil papers; 12,255 people entered the courthouse through the metal detector; and \$466.25 was collected in executions.

Mr. Haynes advised that he had recently read that in some rural counties and in Brunswick County, court has been scheduled for late afternoon and evening to prevent a backlog of cases on the court dockets.

Commissioner Ussery Thad noted that there was no interest in night court when discussed a few years ago.

Commissioner Dillman asked about the Sheriff's Department drug funds. County Manager Haynes advised that these funds go into a special fund, and the funds may be used for vehicle or equipment purchases, etc. as approved by Board of Commissioners. Mr. Haynes went on to state that drug funds can only be used for approved items, and that these funds have often been used to save taxpayer dollars by purchasing vehicles and equipment.

Commissioner Maske noted that fines and forfeitures collected through the courts are designated for the schools.

Commissioner Dillman indicated that she would like a report on the Drug Fund.

**ITEM NO. 9 – CONSIDERATION OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE REDESIGNATION OF FUNDING TO CONSTRUCTION
OF I-73 FROM U.S. HSY. 74 TO SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LINE IN RICHMOND
AND SCOTLAND COUNTIES**

County Manager Haynes advised the Board that over the years highways receive different funding designations, and that DOT plans for decades, not for years. At one time, the I-73 route followed U.S. Hwy. 1 and then followed the Hwy. 74 route. The State is now asking that Richmond County to reassign U.S. 1 funds to the I-73 construction south of the by-pass so as to insure that the funds are assigned to the project for which the funds were originally designated. County Manager Haynes emphasized that the effort by DOT is to keep the funds for the I-73 project.

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following Resolution to redesignate funds for construction of I-73 from U.S. Hwy.74 to the South Carolina State Line in Richmond and Scotland Counties:

ITEM NO. 10 – CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dillman requested a correction in the December 1, 2008 Regular Meeting minutes under Item No. 11 - MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES. The change requested by Commissioner Dillman was in the wording of Paragraph 11 under Item No. 11, which she read as follows: "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, and she stated that the contaminated well problem in the County could possibly be linked back to a landfill..."

Commissioner Dillman stated that the above portion of the December 1, 2008 minutes was incorrect and should be changed to read as follows: "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.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to approve the following items of the Consent Agenda with the changes to Item A, Approval of December 1, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes, as requested by Commissioner Dillman:

- A) BOARD APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2008 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK AND AS CORRECTED**
- B) TAX RELEASES FOR NOVEMBER 2008 TOTALLING \$15,607.43 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$11,888.96 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 REVISION TO ALLOCATE EXPENSES FOR PATIENT PAY VACCINE PROGRAM**

Revenue:
Patient Pay Vaccine:

115188 333141 Insurance Reimbursement Increase by \$10,000
Total Revenue Increase \$10,000

Expenses:
Local Health

115110 4100 Salaries Decrease by \$9,750
115110 4105 FICA Decrease by 1,500
115110 4120 Insurance Decrease by 4,000
115110 4130 Retirement Decrease by 1,000
115110 4135 Supplement Decrease by 1,400
Total Decrease \$ 17,650

Patient Pay Vaccine

115188 4100 Salaries Increase by \$19,750
115188 4110 FICA Increase by 1,500
115188 4120 Insurance Increase by 4,000
115188 4130 Retirement Increase by 1,000
115188 4135 Supplement Increase by 1,400
Total Increase \$ 27,650

Total Expenses Increase: \$10,000

**D) RATIFICATION OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DECEMBER 12, 2008 AS
"RAIDER PRIDE DAY" IN RICHMOND COUNTY**

R E S O L U T I O N
To Designate December 12, 2008
As "RAIDER PRIDE DAY"
In Richmond County

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Commissioners is proud to take this opportunity to honor the accomplishments of the Richmond Senior High School Football Team, including coaches, football personnel, the Marching Raider Band, the Raider Cheerleaders, and the most loyal and dedicated high school football fans in the State of North Carolina, the Richmond Raider fans; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Senior High School Raiders have advanced in the State 4-AA playoffs for the Championship Game to be played Sunday, December 14, 2008 in Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Richmond County wish to show their support for the team, as well as for the accomplishments of all of those associated with the Richmond Raider football program; and

WHEREAS, wearing of green and gold is synonymous with Richmond Senior High School.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kenneth R. Robinette, Chairman of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners, hereby declare Friday, December 12, 2008 as “**RAIDER PRIDE DAY**” in Richmond County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners calls upon every Richmond County citizen to wear green and gold on this day to honor the accomplishments of the Richmond County Senior High School Raiders.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that every Richmond Raider fan is encouraged to attend the Championship Game on Sunday December 14, 2008.

GO RAIDERS!

In behalf of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners this the 9th day of December, 2008.

ITEM NO. 11 – REQUEST FOR BOARD SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF RICHMOND COUNTY WORKING LANDS PROTECTION PLAN AND VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT PROGRAM SURVEY

Mr. Don Belk appeared before the Board in behalf of the BRAC organization to provide information through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Belk advised that there is a strong focus on agriculture/eco-system resources. Mr. Belk advised that they will work closely with county staff to develop a Working Lands protection Plan, which will later become certified by the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Belk went on to advise that by adoption of such a plan, this can be used to leverage state funds, and 7 of the 11 BRAC-impacted counties have adopted VAD ordinances.

Following the PowerPoint, Mr. Belk introduced Dr. Sandy Maddox of Mount Olive College, who discussed the surveys that will be used to obtain a representative sample of Richmond County to be used in developing the Working Lands Protection Plan. Dr. Maddox advised that Richmond County is 11th in the State in agricultural economy, and she noted that adoption of this plan could provide incentives and availability of grant funds to the County as we plan 10 years into the future. Dr. Maddox asked that the Board support the survey.

Mr. Belk advised that BRAC has contracted with the Agribusiness Center of Mount Olive College to develop the Working Lands Protection Plan for Richmond County, and he introduced Grace Lawrence of Mount Olive College as Project Manager and contact for Richmond County staff during the survey process.

Commissioner Ussery asked who would receive the survey forms, and Mr. Belk advised that those in agri-business would be asked to complete the surveys.

Commissioner Dillman asked what other counties are doing, and Mr. Belk advised that everyone is at about the same point with regard to adoption of the plan.

Chairman Robinette asked specifically what Richmond County is being asked to do at this point.

Mr. Belk asked that the Board authorize use of the county web site, mailings, and utilization of in-kind staff participation and support of the project.

County Manager Haynes advised that Cooperative Extension Service has been provided with the survey forms.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried to approve the survey form for circulation.

ITEM NO. 12 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION OF RICHMOND COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones appeared before the Board to present five change orders on the construction of the Richmond County Judicial Center. Mr. Jones advised that he meets weekly with the construction site over-seer and has lengthy meetings monthly with all subcontractors.

Mr. Jones emphasized that there is close oversight of this project, and that a portion of the change orders is the result of unsuitable material removed from an old stable. Mr. Jones added that the change orders, if approved, would be charged against the \$350,000.00 Contingency Reserve set aside for the project and that the total contract amount of \$14,491,700.00 has not changed. Mr. Jones noted that the estimated date of project completion has been extended from November 5, 2009 to December 17, 2009 as a result of these change orders.

Mr. Jones attributed Change Order #1 to removal and replacement of unsuitable soils on the site and deletion of several intercom stations, resulting in a net reduction of \$106,447.00 and an increase of 21 days to the project completion date.

Change Order #2 was described by Mr. Jones as a deduct of \$12,648.00 from the Otis Elevator subcontract as a result of signing a maintenance agreement prior to fabrication of elevators. Removal of unsuitable soil and debris from the foundation of the retaining wall was also a part of this change order. Net result was addition of \$5,358.00.

Change Order #3 increases the contract time by 6 calendar days due to inclement weather conditions. No cost change involved.

Change Order #4 involves addition of a pre-cast stone cap to the screen wall parallel to Lee Street and removal of additional unsuitable soils at retaining wall footing. Addition of 10 calendar days was also included in this change order, for a net result of reduction of Contingency by \$13,966.00.

Change Order #5 involves 4 additional bollards to protect the vehicle access gate on Lee Street, addition of 28 trap primers in floor drains; addition of a Masonic cornerstone; a deduct for credit on building permit; deduct for deleting basement sub-system; addition of more soil to replace unsuitable fill material; addition for change in wall between public lobby Clerk of Court to aluminum storefront; addition of concrete benches to holding cells on

second, third, and fourth floors; and addition of L-shaped desk in Room H009. Net result of Change Order #5 – addition of \$3,901.00 to Contingency balance.

Mr. Jones summarized the net result of the five change orders: Contingency allowance reduced by \$115,145.00, leaving a balance of \$238,756.00 and extension of contract completion date to December 17, 2009.

Commissioner Ussery asked if the architect had included any extra cost for supervision of the project.

Mr. Jones advised that a Construction Supervisor was part of the original contract and that he anticipated no additional charge for supervision time.

Commissioner Ussery cautioned that any cost for additional supervision time should be negotiated now rather than at the end of the project. Mr. Jones advised that he would verify this with the architect and then update the Board.

Commissioner Covington asked why the contract time was extended by the change orders.

Mr. Jones advised that before liquidated damages would begin, this would extend the contractor's projected completion date. County Manager Haynes added that some of these additional days are to compensate for lost work time due to bad weather.

Commissioner Covington verified that we do not expect to exceed the Contingency Reserve amount for the project.

Mr. Jones attributed the use of Contingency funds to removal of unsuitable materials from the site.

A motion was then offered by Commissioner Ussery to accept Change Orders 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as presented by Mr. Jones. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Covington and carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 13 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH PROGRESS ENERGY TO INSTALL NEW UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC POWER LINE ON NEW JUDICIAL CENTER PROPERTY

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones advised the Board that Progress Energy has requested an easement to construct underground electrical service by making a loop below the Sharpe and Buckner Building and cross the front of the County's property to bore under Lee Street to provide underground electrical service for the new Judicial Center. Mr. Jones recommended Board approval of the Progress Energy Easement Agreement.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to approve the Progress Energy Easement Agreement.

ITEM NO. 14 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF EASEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH PROGRESS ENERGY FOR RICHMOND COUNTY INDUSTRIAL PARK

Director of Development Rick Sago advised the Board that Progress Energy has announced expansion of their facilities, and in order to install transmission lines, they have requested an easement to cross county property in Richmond County Industrial Park. Mr. Sago advised that Progress Energy has offered to pay the county \$75,500.00 for the necessary easements.

Commissioner Ussery requested more information about the requested easements.

Mr. Sago advised that on the P&P side of the county industrial park the easement would run parallel to the existing road, and the line would be installed as close to the road as possible. Mr. Sago added that this would be a 230 KV line.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Garner and seconded by Commissioner Wilson to approve the Progress Energy easements. Commissioner Dillman asked where the \$75,500.00 would go in the County budget. Mr. Sago advised, and County Manager Haynes confirmed that the funds would go into Undesignated revenues. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 15 – REQUEST BY EAST ROCKINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE LAND AND BUILDING ADJACENT TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

County Manager Haynes advised that East Rockingham Fire Department is requesting permission to purchase land and a building adjacent to the existing department, and the department has adequate funds available to make payments for the purchase. Mr. Haynes recommended approval of the request.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Maske and unanimously carried to approve the request by East Rockingham Fire Department to purchase property and a building next to the existing department.

ITEM NO. 16 – CONSIDERATION OF PROCLAMATION HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AND DESIGNATION OF JANUARY 19, 2009 AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY IN RICHMOND COUNTY

After reading of the following Proclamation by Chairman Robinette to designate January 19, 2009 as a legal holiday in Richmond County to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a motion was offered by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried to adopt the following Proclamation:

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

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, the North Carolina General Assembly, and the Richmond County Board of Commissioners have proclaimed January 19, 2009 as a legal holiday to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

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

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

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

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

Adopted this 5th day of January, 2009 in the Regular Meeting of the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Covington encouraged citizens to participate in activities planned to commemorate the life of Dr. King, and she extended special thanks to the Martin Luther King Committee for their hard work. Commissioner Covington noted that the theme for last year's celebration was "Fueling the Dream", and this year's theme is "From the Dream to Reality." Commissioner Covington commented that January 20, 2009 marks the date for inauguration of the first African American President, and she believed that this represents the results of Dr. King's work. Commissioner Covington then read a poem written by Dr. King expressing his beliefs. Commissioner Covington referred to activities planned from January 16 through January 19 to celebrate the life of Dr. King.

ITEM NO. 17 – CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON FOR 2009-2010 LEGISLATIVE BIENNIUM

Chairman Robinette advised that Commissioner Dillman has been representing Richmond County as Legislative Liaison.

Commissioner Dillman volunteered to continue serving as Legislative Liaison.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to reappoint Commissioner Dillman as Richmond County's Legislative Liaison for the 2009-2010 Legislative Biennium. Chairman Robinette requested that Commissioner Dillman report to the Board on Legislative activities at each meeting.

There being no further business for discussion, a motion was offered by Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

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