

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
105 W Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: Chairman Kenneth R. Robinette; Vice-Chairman John B. Garner; Commissioners Don M. Bryant, Jimmy L. Capps, Ben T. Moss, Jr., Tavares Bostic and Rick Watkins

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robinette at 5:30 P.M.

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Reverend Charles Bethea

Invocation was given by Commissioner Ben Moss

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Bryant and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 3 Open Forum for Public Comments - 5:30 - 6:00 PM

Mr. Brower was not in attendance

ITEM NO. 4 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Appointment to Health & Human Services Advisory Board- Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

Ms. Cassandra Byers will fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Shirley Fuller ending on January 31, 2021.

By a motion of Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Moss and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 5 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

I wanted to bring to everyone's attention that this month we will have two long term core employees retiring from Richmond County Government. Doyle Haigler with 52 years of service and Sam Haigler with 11 years of service. The Haigler brothers have been permanent fixtures around the airport for over a half of a century. These guys have been the face of our airport and it has been a pleasure to work alongside them for my ten years that I have been employed by the County. If a book on great customer service could be written the Haigler brothers should definitely be the authors. I want to wish Doyle and Sam both many great years of retirement and on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the staff of Richmond County Government an abundant amount of thanks for all of your years of service.

As a reminder, we are only 38 days out from our Epicenter Music Festival that I first mentioned back in the fall that will be held at the Dragway and Speedway grounds. We are still working with the promoters almost daily on making this event a success in Richmond County. All of the pieces of the puzzle are starting to fall into place. The event dates are set for May 10-12 2019. Ticket sales remain very strong; this event should be a huge shot in the arm for our local sales tax and occupancy tax revenues. I continue to push our local business to welcome the attendees of the event with open arms. We need to show them how warm our hospitality can be and I feel confident the event organizers will make the choice to call Richmond County home for many years to come.

Construction for The Old Cheraw Waterline Project has been underway for slightly over three months now; crews have installed over 20,000' of 8" waterline. I want to reiterate, residents are reminded to take advantage of the \$500 tap discount, if a citizen taps on within 90 days of project completion the tap fee will be reduced from \$900 to \$400. As a reminder, S&L Contracting came in with a low bid of \$1,696,218 which was slightly lower than our engineers estimate. This project includes over 40,000 linear feet of water line and a new pump station will serve the Old Cheraw Highway and US 1 South areas.

While we are on the Old Cheraw discussion, I wanted to provide the board of a brief update of the petition we received last month. We performed our due diligence by validating the information provided by the petitioners.

Over 431 signatures were received. However over 96 % of the petitioners that signed the petition asking for county water, currently have municipal water.

While I appreciate the efforts of the residents that signed the petition and I truly empathize with them. The bottom line is the vast majority of the petitioners already have access to Municipal water. We have policies and procedures in place to assure we continue to stay financially sound within our water enterprise fund and we must follow these policies and procedures. Decisions cannot be made on emotions alone.

Jerry Austin, Public Works Director, mailed ten letters out last week to the residents that petitioned for water that actually live in the potential service area.

Calculations and amounts were included in the correspondence to the residents of the amount they would need to contribute individually to bring the project up to the 10 year payback.

The Enviva Site continues to bustle with activity daily. We are approximately 75 days out from the opening of the new industry. Track installation crossing Hwy 177 is complete and the tie into CSX property has been completed as well. Enviva is still averaging over 325 construction personnel daily. Enviva is still looking for employees and staff to man the new facility, many high paying jobs are still available. Please check their website often. Engineers and project managers are still targeting a completion date of late June.

Our solid waste report is as follows: Allen & his staff had another extremely busy month we picked up 563 bags for a total of approximately 5 tons. Additionally, 40 tires were removed; we cleaned up 27 different roadways with Richmond County Staff alone. DOT forces kicked in to pick up multiple roadways as well. Our Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, Allen Hodges investigated 3 illegal dump site and issued 3 citations and warnings.

Additionally, Bryan Leggett is working diligently with the Adopt a highway groups. He has submitted letters to the adopt a highway owners and have heard from 2 of them. They are cleaning their sections as they need cleaning. If you are aware of any civic or church groups that would like to participate in this program please contact Bryan Leggett at 997 8338. Bryan and Jerry are also talking with the 3rd graders at Monroe Ave later in April to discuss recycling and litter. We are negotiating a contract with NCDOT to get reimbursed for the road miles that we pick up as DOT is short staffed. As you are aware, we are in the process of hiring an additional employee for litter pickup. This will bring us to 3 employees.

I wanted to remind everyone about our upcoming County property auction. I am pleased to announce that dates have been set for April 23rd- April 30th. Ironhorse Auction will be hosting the surplus auction online with a live closing at the Cole Auditorium. Currently there are over 150 parcels slated to be sold. I am ecstatic about the opportunity to get the parcels back on the tax books. Some of the parcels that we are liquidating have been off of the books for over 10 years.

As a reminder, we have our annual hazardous household waste day slated for Saturday, April 13th from 9am to 1pm at our Dss/Health Parking Lot. This is where all materials that aren't typically allowed at our landfill and boxesites will be collected. Paints, thinners, solvents, batteries, many other liquids.

Another reminder we will start our annual spring flushing of our water distribution system around April 1. Notices went out in the water bills and will be posted online as well.

Week before last, we were able to host Governor Coopers Hometown Strong Initiative, we were able to showcase the future events slated at the speedway grounds and many other economic development topics were discussed at length. The event was highly attended and we had the ears of all of the Governors key department heads and key staff members for over 10 hours.

On the Economic Development front, our shell building project is moving along at a steady pace even with the numerous weather related issues that we have suffered through. Footings have been completed and concrete piers are being poured this week. Vertical construction should begin within the next two weeks. Southern Builders still feels confident they will have the project completed by mid-June. As a reminder this is our 5th shell building that we have constructed in our Rockingham West Industrial Park.

As you aware, our annual budgeting process has started, we are in full budget mode. I am meeting with outside agencies and department heads daily. We will be sending out dates for our budget meeting within the next week or two.

ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Resolution for Application for Rural Building Reuse Grant Funding- Martie Butler, Economic Developer - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Moss seconded by Commissioner Capps and by unanime vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Lease Between Richmond County and Sandhills AGInnovation - Paige Burns, Interim County Extension Director - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Bryant and by unanime vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 8 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Auction of Surplus Property - Vagas Jackson, Tax Administrator - Decision

These properties were acquired through the tax foreclosure process. This means that County was the highest bidder and in many times the only bidder at a tax foreclosure sale.

By a motion of Commissioner Bostic, seconded by Commissioner Garner and by unanime vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 9 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Amended Gov Direct Contracts - Donna Wright, Director - Emergency Services- Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Garner and by unanime vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.10 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Grant for Richmond County Drug Endangered Families Task Force - Robby Hall, Director- Division of Social Services- Decision

Health and Human Services has been awarded an additional grant from Community Impact NC; as the fiscal host for Richmond County Drug Endangered Families Task Force (DEFT). The grant is in the amount of \$12,000. The task forces mission is to prevent prescription and illegal drug overdoses in Richmond County. The taskforce forms community partnerships, raises awareness and educates the community on this public issue in hopes of reducing overdoses and increasing access to treatment. Its goal is to reduce oversupply of prescription opioids and increase access to treatment, increase community awareness and prevention of substance misuse through environmental management strategies, and measure the impact and revise strategies based on results.

By a motion of Commissioner Bostic, seconded by Commissioner Bryant and by unanime vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.11 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month - Robby Hall, Director Division of Social Services - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Capps and by unanime vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.12 Update on Place of Grace Campus- Pastor Gary Richardson - Discussion

There are 52 residents at the campus and they receive two daily meals
After school program with 15 kids- they work on class work and receive a meal
NC Works has been helping with resumes for the residents. The Ready Set Go To Work Program is working well. We had 9 of the 12 to get jobs and start working. We would like to thank Plastec for hiring them and giving them a chance.
Campus upgrades- we are writing grants for assistance. Getting assistance from churches within the county. We are doing fundraisers too.
Oyster Roast coming up on Saturday, April 13th from 5:00pm until 9:00pm.
Thank the Board for all they have done to help get this project going and for the support

ITEM NO.13 Consent Agenda - Decision

- A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 5, 2019 As Submitted by the Clerk For Review**

- B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for the Month of February, 2019**

- C) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report for the Month of February 2019**

- D) Approval of Budget Amendment for 2018 - 2019 Alzheimer's Walk Funds**

- E) Approval of Budget Amendment for Environmental Health**

- F) Approval of Budget Amendment for Peer to Peer Grant**

- G) Approval of Updated Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement**

- H) Approval of Agreement for Airport Safety/Maintenance Projects**

- I) Approval of Budget Amendment for Sandhills AGInnovation Center, Inc.**
By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Moss and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.14 Adjournment - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Capps and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk
Dena R. Cook, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board
Richmond County Board of Commissioners