

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2007, 6:30 P.M.**

*The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. with the following present: Chairman Kenneth R. Robinette; Vice-Chairman John B. Garner; Commissioners Pamela N. Dillman, Jimmy L. Maske, Thad Ussery, J. C. Watkins, and Paul Wilson, Jr.*

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

**ITEM NO. 1 – INVOCATION BY YOUTH MINISTER DUSTIN CONNER OF CORDOVA BAPTIST CHURCH, ROCKINGHAM, NC**

*The invocation was delivered by Youth Minister Dustin Conner of Cordova Baptist Church.*

**ITEM NO. 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

*There were no appearances during the Open Forum.*

**ITEM NO. 4 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON FY 2007-2008 RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING**

*The Public Hearing to receive public comments concerning funding for the FY 2007-2008 Rural Operating Assistance Program was declared open at 6:34 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.*

*There were no speakers, and the hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to authorize filing the 2007-2008 Rural Operating Assistance Program application to D.O.T. for funding in the amount of \$170,768.00.*

**ITEM NO. 5 – PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON PROPOSED LOCAL TAX GRANT INCENTIVE PACKAGE FOR OWENS-ILLINOIS**

*The Public Hearing to receive public input on the proposed Local Tax Grant Incentive Package for Owens-Illinois was declared open at 6:34 P.M. by Chairman Robinette.*

*Director of Development Rick Sago addressed the Board, advising that the grant agreement would be equivalent to 60% of the Ad Valorem taxes paid by the company to the County as made available to other qualifying industries, based on performance of grant contract requirements such as creation of new jobs, new investment, etc.*

*Commissioner Maske confirmed that the Grant Contract is based on a five-year term.*

*There were no other speakers, and the hearing was declared closed by Chairman Robinette at 6:35 P.M.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to approve the Economic Development Grant Contract for Owens Illinois.*

**ITEM NO. 6 – APPEARANCE BY ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT GLENN WARE OF WARE, BONSAI ARCHITECTS FOR UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON JUDICIAL CENTER PROJECT**

*Architectural consultants Glenn Ware and Pete Cayada appeared before the Board to provide an update on the judicial center construction schedule. Mr. Ware advised that the final design phase is underway, and that he has been meeting with user groups to discuss colors and details of the building. Mr. Ware went on to state that work has begun on the parking lots, and he has met with City of Rockingham officials concerning the Conditional Use Permit to be submitted in August. Mr. Ware estimated that the project will be under contract in September, and environmental work will be underway during that time.*

*Mr. Pete Cayada discussed the design of the building and the fact that 12 parking spaces have been eliminated so as to insure preservation of the retaining wall between the Shepard Auto Parts Building and motel.*

*Commissioner Maske confirmed that the number of parking spaces in the lot off Lee Street would be approximately the same as the current number of spaces – 70 to 80 spaces. Mr. Cayada explained that all of these spaces would be restricted for staff parking and that public parking would be off-site across the street.*

*Mr. Cayada referenced the model of the building, noting that the exterior would be red brick with two entrances, a sallyport entrance for inmates, four elevators, and three towers.*

*Commissioner Dillman inquired about total square footage of the building, and Mr. Cayada advised that the total footage would be 70,000 sq. ft., and that all space would be used for offices and courtrooms for the District Attorney, Clerk of Court, and judges.*

*In further discussion of the floor plan, Mr. Cayada verified that the only cells in the new judicial center would be for a holding area in the basement adjoining the sallyport entrance, and there would be staging cells just outside the courtrooms. Mr. Cayada noted that the first floor entrance off Lee and Franklin Streets would be for public access to offices; the second floor would be for courtrooms; and the top floor would house the District Attorney's Office and District Court Offices.*

*Commissioner Maske inquired about the height of the new building, and Mr. Cayada advised that the new judicial center would be approximately 20 ft. higher than the existing courthouse.*

*Commissioner Watkins asked if all space will be occupied immediately, and Mr. Ware advised that the building is designed based on projected growth to 2020. Mr. Ware noted that four of the D.A.'s offices may be empty, but there are no blocks of space available.*

*Commissioner Dillman asked about the current square footage in the courthouse, and Mr. Ware advised that the existing courthouse is approximately 35,000 sq. ft. with two courtrooms, compared to the new building of 70,000 sq. ft. and six courtrooms.*

*Commissioner Watkins inquired about the logistics of entering the sallyport with prisoners.*

*Mr. Cayada advised Commissioner Ussery that seven holding cells are planned with four holding cells on each court floor.*

*Commissioner Garner asked the estimate of additional personnel to maintain the new building, and County Manager Haynes advised that he did not have a number of additional personnel at this time.*

*Commissioner Ussery asked Mr. Ware about the flat roof on the building and whether it would have been much more expensive to use a sloped roof in metal. Mr. Ware confirmed that it would have been much more expensive - \$250,000.00 to \$500,000.00 more, to slope the roof. Mr. Ware also noted that plans are for a rubber roof, and that most equipment would be on the ground rather than on the roof.*

*Commissioner Watkins confirmed that the windows will not be operable; that the brick size is standard; and that wall tile is proposed for interior use.*

*Commissioner Maske asked about acoustics, and Mr. Ware advised that each courtroom would have a balanced sound system, and that ceilings would help to absorb noise.*

*Commissioner Ussery asked about seating in the courtrooms, and Mr. Ware advised that there would be pew seating with built-in swivel seats for jurors, and the large courtroom would accommodate 230 to 240 people.*

*Commissioner Maske inquired about the Cumberland County Jail and Mr. Ware advised that this is a 568-bed jail, and he advised that his firm had designed the 100,000 sq. ft. Union County Courthouse and the Brunswick County Courthouse, which is also approximately 100,000 sq. ft.*

*Chairman Robinette thanked Mr. Ware and Mr. Cayada for their presentation and update on plans for the Richmond County Judicial Center.*

**ITEM NO. 7 – MONTHLY PLANNING/GIS REPORT BY PLANNING DIRECTOR JAMIE ARMSTRONG**

**A) CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

*Planning Director Jamie Armstrong advised that Richard Daniel has resigned from the Planning Board of Adjustment due to conflicts with his work schedule, and he recommended*

*that Dr. Diane Honeycutt, who serves as an Alternate member, be appointed to the unexpired term of Mr. Daniel.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Ussery and unanimously carried to designate Dr. Diane Honeycutt to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Richard Daniel as a member of the Planning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Armstrong noted that there are now two vacant alternate seats.*

***B) REQUEST FOR BOARD TO SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER NAMING OF NEW ROAD***

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board agreed to advertise and conduct a public hearing during the August 6 Regular Meeting to consider a request by Mr. Jerry Etheridge to name a new road Hayes Etheridge Road.*

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

*Director of Development Rick made a brief report to the Board, advising that he continues to work with existing businesses and with a new client that the Department of Commerce will bring for a visit next week. Mr. Sago advised that the new Department of Commerce representative visited the County last week, and he advised that Herb Smith will be retiring from Richmond Community College. Mr. Sago commended RCC and their assistance with economic development projects.*

***ITEM NO. 9 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY COUNTY MANAGER JAMES E. HAYNES***

*County Manager Haynes discussed plans for the new judicial center, noting that the basement area of the courthouse is where people will come in for court. Mr. Haynes further advised that eventually a portion of the basement could be completed for future office space at an estimated cost of \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00.*

*Mr. Haynes stated that there is a misconception by many people that a jail is included in the judicial center plans. Mr. Haynes clarified that the old jail would continue to operate in its current location on the back side of the courthouse. In determining what should be done with the space in the historic courthouse, Mr. Haynes acknowledged that a number of ideas have been discussed, one of which is to demolish the back portion that was added in the late 1970's, but those plans can be decided at a later date.*

*County Manager Haynes noted that the Legislature continues to deal with Medicaid and the State budget, but there are no answers yet. Mr. Haynes stated that Richmond County has spent nearly \$4,000,000.00 in the current year budget for Medicaid, and the State cap has now been depleted. Mr. Haynes reported that the previous month's cost for Medicaid was the highest that it had ever been - \$474,000.00, and that the cost has now exceeded the \$3.8 million that had been budgeted for the current year.*

*Mr. Haynes reported that the Tax Office has now broken records in the collection rate, which ended the fiscal year at 95.57%, a collection rate higher than any year back to 1980. Mr. Haynes stressed the importance of the collection rate on next year's budget calculations. County Manager Haynes mentioned that the County's new accounting software system is Munis, which is in place and operational in the Health Department and will be available in other county departments in the coming months. Mr. Haynes stressed that the new system will provide greater control over accounts and avoid line item overruns.*

**ITEM NO. 10 – MONTHLY STAFF REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES B. K. JONES FOR UPDATE ON SOUTHEASTERN WATERLINE PROJECT**

*Director of Community Services B. K. Jones provided a map depicting water projects currently underway, advising that the Southeast Project is a 12" waterline down Airport Road, onto Ghio Road, to Hwy. 38, and then tying into the existing line at the bypass, and then down Springhill Church Road and Hwy. 381. Mr. Jones noted that five borings will take place this week. Mr. Jones advised that construction of the new 300,000 gallon overhead tank at Ghio Road begins this week at a cost of \$836,984.00. Mr. Jones reminded the Board that 51% of the cost of the Southeast waterline project is funded through EPA Grant funds.*

*In summarizing, Mr. Jones advised that the Southeast 12" main loop line should be completed this Fall, and 2,000 ft. of line has already been installed on Springhill Church Road. Mr. Jones noted that the project is a total of 6,000 ft. of line at a total project cost of \$1.6 million, and Old Gibson and McGuirt Road lines will be installed later after approval, and side roads off Hwy. 381 will be prioritized by the Board based on density.*

*Commissioner Ussery confirmed that Old Gibson and McGuirt Road lines have been engineered.*

*Commissioner Garner inquired asked about Boyd Lake Road, and Mr. Jones advised that it was not feasible to include this area as part of this project because there is no water service on 177, and the distance is approximately 1.5 miles back to the waterline.*

*Commissioner Maske asked how much more line installation was made possible by using in-house crews for this project. Mr. Jones estimated that approximately half again the footage of waterline is being installed through the savings realized in utilizing in-house crews.*

*In discussion of the Owens Illinois overhead tank, Mr. Jones advised that the tank is being raised 39 ft., and materials are being purchased later in the week to begin this work estimated for completion later in August.*

*Commissioner Watkins commented on the need for water to the areas that will be served with the completion of this project.*

*Commissioner Garner agreed that this is the biggest and best project that the County has had in sometime and it has been made possible through grants and profits of the water system. Commissioner Garner added that he hoped that the Boyd Lake Road area could soon be considered.*

Mr. Jones noted that raising the elevation of the County Home Road tank is part of the Trinity Project, with the cost of raising the tank at \$518,000.00. Also as a part of the Trinity project is the new 750,000 gallon tank on Hwy. 220 at a cost of \$1,187,715.00.

In discussion of the Viking Project, Mr. Jones advised that the project consists of an 8" line down Enterprise Drive, and a 16" line has been completed on Silver Grove Church Road and Cartledge Creek Road.

Mr. Jones stated that the total cost of all projects underway is \$5.3 million.

Commissioner Watkins requested a report at a later date to reflect the new customers added as a result of these projects.

County Manager Haynes remarked that the Trinity Project will pay for itself within five years and generate more money to go back into the system.

Mr. Jones called attention to the funding agencies that made this project possible – EPA, Golden Leaf Foundation, and CDBG Program. Mr. Haynes added that we continue to apply to Golden Leaf for funding.

**ITEM NO. 11 – CONSIDERATION OF BID AWARD FOR SOUTHEAST WATERLINE PROJECT MATERIALS**

Director of Community Services B. K. Jones presented the following recap of bids for purchase of materials for the Oak Ridge Church Road portion of the Southeast Project as received on July 9, 2007, noting that the EPA Grant will fund 51% of this cost:

<b><u>BIDDER</u></b>	<b><u>BID BOND</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL BID</u></b>
H. D. Supply Waterworks	5%	\$ 50,189.89
Pipeline Supply Co., Inc.	5%	\$ 52,973.62
Raleigh WinWater Company	None	N/A

By a motion of Commissioner Dillman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the recommendation of Mr. Jones to award the bid for waterline materials to low bidder H. D. Supply Waterworks at a total bid of \$50,189.89.

**ITEM NO. 12 – CONSENT AGENDA**

By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following items of the Consent Agenda:

- A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2007; REGULAR MID-MONTH MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2007; AND ADJOURNED MEETING-BUDGET WORK SESSION OF JUNE 28, 2007 AS SUBMITTED BY THE CLERK FOR CONSIDERATION**
  
- B) TAX RELEASES TOTALLING \$8,401.42 AND TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$739.29 FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2007 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED**

**BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES BY REFERENCE.**

**C) TAX RELEASES TALLING \$318,803.40 AND TAX REFUNDS TALLING \$2,581.86 FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2007 WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES BY REFERENCE.**

**D) APPROVAL OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVISION FOR WIC PROGRAM**

**REVENUE: WIC - CLIENT SERVICES**

<i>State Reimbursement</i>	<i>115141-333039</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$17,980.61</i>
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**EXPENDITURES: WIC - CLIENT SERVICES**

<i>4 Workstations, Installation &amp; Freight</i>	<i>115141-5100</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$13,879.00</i>
<i>Wallpaper - WIC Clerical Office</i>	<i>115141-5140</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 1,785.97</i>
<i>Carpet - WIC Clerical Office</i>	<i>115141-5140</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 1,975.64</i>
<i>Tanita BWB 800S-Adult Digital Scales</i>	<i>115141-4275</i>	<i>Increase by</i>	<i>\$ 340.00</i>
<i>Total Increase</i>			<i>\$17,980.61</i>

**ITEM NO. 13 - REQUEST FOR BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO REAPPOINT EVERETTE L. ("BUTCH") GREENE AS RICHMOND COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR FOR TWO-YEAR TERM**

*County Manager Haynes advised that in accordance with General Statute provisions, the Tax Assessor must be appointed every two years or every four years, as desired by the Board and must meet all qualifications as set by the State. Mr. Haynes advised that Tax Assessor E. L. "Butch" Greene meets all requirements, and he recommended reappointment of Mr. Greene for a two-year term.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to reappoint Butch Greene for a new two-year term as Tax Assessor.*

**ITEM NO. 14 - DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE TO NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 16-19, 2007**

*Commissioner Jimmy L. Maske volunteered to serve as Voting Delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference in Cumberland County August 16-19, 2007.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to designate Commissioner Maske as NCACC Conference Voting Delegate.*

**ITEM NO. 15 - REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION TEAM**

*By a motion of Commissioner Maske, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following individuals to serve on the Child Fatality Prevention*

Team in the designated categories as recommended and in accordance with Article 14, 7B-1407 of the General Statutes:

**CATEGORY OF REPRESENTATION**

Local Law Enforcement Officer  
EMS Provider of Firefighter  
Parent of Child Who Died Before His/Her  
18<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**NAME OF RECOMMENDATION**

Hamlet Police Chief John Haywood  
FirstHealth EMS Dir. Grant Hunsucker  
Rev. Dena White

**5 AT-LARGE APPOINTEES RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT**

Charlotte McNeil, FNP – recommended for reappointment  
Cheryl Speight, RN – recommended for reappointment  
Robby Hall, DSS Employee – recommended as new appointee  
Glenn Alexander – Richmond County Schools – recommended for reappointment  
Dr. Larry Weatherly – Retiree, Richmond County Schools – volunteered to serve and recommended as new appointee

**ITEM NO. 16 – REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF REAPPOINTMENT TO PEE DEE REGION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

*By a motion of Commissioner Ussery, seconded by Commissioner Garner and unanimously carried, the Board approved the reappointment of Mr. Butch Farrah to a new three-year term as a private sector representative on the Workforce Development Board.*

**ITEM NO. 17 – REQUEST BY CITY OF ROCKINGHAM TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF ETJ ALTERNATE MEMBER ON ROCKINGHAM BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS**

*By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Dillman and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of Mr. Jason Perakis as an ETJ Alternate member of the Rockingham Board of Adjustment and Appeals as recommended by the City of Rockingham.*

**ITEM NO. 18 – OTHER BUSINESS**

**A) CONSIDERATION OF REVISED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO AUTHORIZE LUMBER RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO SECURE TAX-FREE FINANCING TO CONSTRUCT OFFICE FACILITIES**

*Ms. Dana Powell of Lumber River Council of Governments appeared before the Board in behalf of COG Executive Director Jim Perry to request Board approval to revise the Interlocal Agreement previously presented and approved by the Board. Ms. Powell explained that the Interlocal Agreement had authorized financing through Lumber River Development Corporation for construction of new COG offices. It has now been determined that the financing can be arranged directly between Lumber River COG and the lender and would result in a \$500,000.00 savings over the life of the loan. Ms. Powell asked that the Board approve the newly revised Interlocal Agreement in the name of Lumber River Council of Governments.*

*A motion was offered by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously carried to approve the revised Interlocal Agreement with Lumber River Council of Governments as requested.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

*Commissioner Dillman commented on the new tax rate and that someone had asked her if proceeds from the sale of Richmond Memorial Hospital could be used toward building a courthouse.*

*County Manager Haynes replied that the funds from the sale of the hospital were determined not to be county money and that these funds had remained in a charitable foundation to be disbursed in the community for approved uses. Mr. Haynes added that the County had negotiated for funds from the sale, but none of the funds were ever shared with the County. Commissioner Dillman stated that she would like for the County to apply for some of these funds to be used for courthouse construction.*

*Commissioner Dillman further discussed taxes and stated that the County should have a revenue neutral tax rate next year during Revaluation.*

*Commissioner Ussery stated that the Board would be considering a new tax rate during the Revaluation process next budget year, and County Manager Haynes advised that it is his job to present the Board with a revenue neutral rate at that time. Mr. Haynes reiterated that it is normal procedure to consider a revenue neutral tax rate.*

*Commissioner Ussery stated that the Foundation which handles the hospital funds has assisted with funding for several programs at the Health Department, and that a stipulation of the disbursement of these funds is that they must be used for health-related programs in the community.*

*Commissioner Maske noted that some of the proceeds from the hospital sale have been used toward the FirstHealth Fitness Center.*

*Commissioner Watkins added that the FirstHealth funds are handled through the Foundation for the Carolinas and some of these funds have been used toward the RCC Health-Science Building, and that the funds must be used toward health-related causes approved by the Foundation.*

*Commissioner Ussery referred to the health clinic for indigent care as another program to receive funding through the Foundation.*

*There being no further business for discussion, a motion was offered by Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Wilson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M.*

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