

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
105 W. Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: Commissioner Don M. Bryant, Commissioner Rick Watkins, Commissioner Toni R. Maples, Commissioner Andy Grooms, Commissioner Tavares Bostic, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins, and Chairman Jeff Smart

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Pastor Steve Gilmer

Invocation was given by Pastor Steve Gilmer

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Bostic and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 3 Consent Agenda - Decision

A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 1, 2022 and Special Meeting on February 1, 2022 as Submitted by the Clerk for Review

B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for Month of January, 2022

C) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report for the Month of January 2022

D) Approval of Budget Amendment for School Nurse Funding

E) Approval of Budget Amendment for WIC Client Services

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

ITEM NO. 4 Open Forum for Public Comments - 5:30 - 6:00 PM

No one signed up to speak

ITEM NO. 5 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Proclamation for the 110th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Adoption of new County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval to Deed Property to Impact Plastics - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 8 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

I will start out this evening with a few updates from our tax department.

Our team in collections continues to do a phenomenal job with tax collections. December, January and February have all been record breaking months for us. On January 11th late notices were mailed to all delinquent taxpayers as well as bank attachment and forced collections began the first week of February. Our tax administrator Mr. Vegas Jackson and our collector Mrs. Michelle Holden from the tax department and myself are still targeting our goal of a 97.50% collection rate (97.36%) *last year*. through the hard work and dedication of our collections staff. Every month we feel more and more confident that the goal is becoming attainable. As of today, we stand at 94.65%, at the end of February last year we were at 94.24%. As a reminder, our tax office begins the foreclosure process after two years if an attempt to pay hasn't been made. Our tax office is more than willing to work with citizens to setup payment plans or even pre-payment, but we do ask in return that citizens make a conscious effort to do their part as well.

Our solid waste report is as follows: .we picked up 377 bags for a total of approximately 5.2 tons. Additionally, 39 tires were removed; we cleaned up 19 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces. Some roadways were picked up multiple times. Our Solid Waste Enforcement Officer investigated 2 illegal dump sites and issued 2 citations and warnings. I'm not sure if you guys saw the story released yesterday but Mecklenburg County is battling the same litter epidemic as we are. Their annual tonnage figures have continued to climb year over year. They have the same concerns as we do. Litter is a battle that everyone is fighting. I continue to urge citizens to join in against the fight of the litter epidemic.

A few more updates from our Solid Waste Department.

Household waste collection day is scheduled to be held on Saturday April 9th. from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. The Location will be our Richmond County Health and Human services building parking lot at 127 Caroline Street. .

April 25th thru 30th is dedicated for roadside litter cleanup week. (Earth week). Any businesses, individual or groups interested in volunteering to pick up a section of roadway please contact Allen Hodges at 910-997-8215 or Bryan Leggett at 910-997-8338. Richmond County will provide bags for cleanup. Also, should a group need , safety vests and litter grabbers they will be available for pickup at the Public Works facility located at 191 Walter Kelly Road. We ask these two items be returned to be utilized for future litter sweep events.

A few updates from our Water Department

Our New Anson County pump station is awaiting completion of final waterline bore in order to schedule test startup. This is anticipated to occur in early to mid April. As a reminder this was an 1.2 million dollar project that was completely funded by NCDOT, no county dollars were utilized for this project.

Our annual Spring waterline flushing program is scheduled to occur on consecutive weekends starting the evenings of March 31st thru April 2nd and finishing on the evenings of April 7th thru April 10th. Customers may experience some slight issues with pressure and flow occasionally but in general minimal interruptions should be expected or noticed.

Also, our annual contract for water tank maintenance will involve interior washouts of the Ellerbe, Hylan Park and Hoffman water tanks. Scheduling is being discussed at this time and anticipated to occur in late April to early May.

A few updates from our partners at DOT and Law enforcement pertaining to questions posed at last months meeting and throughout the month.

One of the complaints we have received from citizens over the last few months concerning drainage issues on Hwy 74 business adjacent to Dons Locksmith is finally receiving attention from DOT. Hopefully the drainage upgrades will eliminate the flooding and ponding that has been plaguing the area during large scale rain events for some time now.

There have been some questions from Commissioner Bryant and other citizens concerning CSX trains staging on the tracks and sometimes blocking crossings in the town of Hoffman. Martie Butler and I have had numerous discussions with CSX representatives last week on our dissatisfaction with this practice. They have apologized for the crossing being partially blocked two weekends ago and have advised they will stay on top of the situation and hope it doesn't happen again.

On the economic development front, the last few weeks have been very demanding for us. We have eight active projects Martie and I are working. A few existing industries are getting very close to potential expansions. Additionally, we are compiling all of the required paperwork for the Speedway and Dragway grants. Cary Garner and our team in finance are finalizing the last grant requirements for our ten volunteer fire and rescue departments to receive their ten thousand dollar grants that the legislature was able to bring back to Richmond County. Also, we are starting to have preliminary discussions on the groundwork and planning for shell building #6! Lastly, Martie and I have been meeting most the afternoon with the leadership teams of VBC and Cavaco Industries. Cavaco is in the process of acquiring VBC. Cavaco Industries Inc., is headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona. The design and produce factory built housing products primarily distributed through a network of independent and Company owned retailers.

They are one of the largest producers of manufactured and modular homes in the United States. As this is hot off of the press, we have very limited information available at this time . However, Cavaco has advised they are looking to retain all current employees and also exploring the possibility of expansion.

Our 22-23 budget season is here. The budgeting process for our next fiscal year has begun. Budget workbooks were sent out to our department heads yesterday, letters have also been sent out to outside agencies which will be asked to submit their request with justification and up to date financials to our Finance office. I will begin meeting with individual department heads one on one to discuss their budgets over the next few weeks

Transitioning to a few of our building maintenance projects. Our HVAC changeout project at the jail, Sheriffs office and old courthouse is nearing completion. Crews should be placing the finishing touches on the project by next Wednesday. As a reminder, we are utilizing ARP funds to changeout eleven 1976 model units at a cost of \$251,000.

Hudson Paving has completed, our Energy Way Industrial Park roadway project. This was a project to clear and grub our entrance road to the new Industrial Park. This project is part of a grant that Martie and I landed for signage and grading for the site. This will allow potential investors to get off the road safely and visualize the site.

In closing, I ask that you continue to join me in keeping the people of Ukraine, our brave troops, their families, and all those in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

ITEM NO. 9 Request for Board Consideration of Approval to Authorize Sale of Surplus Real Property - Vagas Jackson, Tax Administrator - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Dawkins, seconded by Commissioner Bostic and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO.10 Adjournment - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Grooms, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 P.M.

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

**Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Memorandum of
Opioid Litigation - Bryan Land, Co**