

**Minutes**  
**Richmond County Board of Commissioners**  
**105 W Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, March 09, 2020 5:30PM**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 9, 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 Pastor Gary Richardson**

Invocation was given by Pastor Gary Richardson of Place of Grace Campus, Rockingham, NC

**ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision**

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

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

No one signed up to speak

**ITEM NO. 4 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of RC Animal Shelter New Policy and Procedures - Bryan Land, County Manager and Jimmy Quick, IT/HR Director- Discussion**

Highlights were given to Board on the changes and additions to the policy manual. Several of the changes were taken in consideration after the meeting with Dr. Norris on December 30, 2019.

**ITEM NO. 5 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land**

Our Anson County pump station project is slated to begin on March 16<sup>th</sup>, the earthwork portion of the roadway project is progressing despite progress being hampered slightly by the weather. The notice to proceed was issued on February 1st with a substantial completion date of August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Construction on our US 1 project near the racetrack is still progressing but progress has slowed slightly. Weather has played a major factor in all of our projects. However, crews have been able to work continuously on storm drain installation, grading operations and erosion control measures. Paving is slated to start back within the next two weeks weather permitting and RE Goodson the contractor expects the Highway 177 detour to be open within the next few weeks as well. The project is still anticipated to be completed by November.

I did want to touch on the generator grant project that Donna Wright our Emergency Services Director has worked vigorously on. We will be receiving generators for our Hoffman and Crawford Road pump stations. Delivery and installation is slated to begin in the next three weeks. After completion we will have permanent generators at all of the pump stations throughout Richmond County, a far cry from where we were a decade or so with one portable generator to power ten different locations.

Our solid waste report is as follows: we picked up 321 bags for a total of approximately 4.1 tons. Additionally, 9 tires were removed; we cleaned up 20 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces. Our Solid Waste Enforcement Officer investigated 2 illegal dump sites and issued 2 citation or notices. I also want to remind everyone that the Statewide litter sweep is scheduled during the weeks of April 11-25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Brian Leggett at 997-8338 if you or your organization or civic group would like to assist. I continue to urge citizens to join in against the fight of the litter epidemic.

The clearing and fencing project at the airport is complete, a final inspection for the project is slated for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The new 8' fence looks very nice and provides an additional security barrier to our airfield.

Cost was \$279,125 and S & L Contracting out of Anson County are doing the work. Reminder that 90% grant funded. Only a 10% County match is required.

Work has still been sporadic over the last couple of weeks due to the rainy conditions; however, crews have still been able to stay fairly productive. Concrete pads, loading docks and sidewalks have been poured this week. The fire protection system and the final touches on the interior of the building should be completed next week. We are still targeting a late March occupancy date for the facility.

Staying on the economic development topic, we did have a few positives take place over the last few weeks. We were awarded a 75k demo grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority to clean up the prior Tartlon Boat Company on Hwy 177 outside of Hamlet. The site has been blight at the entrance to our Marks Creek Industrial Park for many decades. This was the only demo grant awarded during this grant cycle in the entire State of North Carolina. As you are aware, our County Attorney Mr. Webb is a member on the authority, we certainly appreciate his efforts to assist us with landing the grant.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that one of our existing Industries Direct Pack has broken ground on their 50,000 square feet expansion. They are utilizing a 400k building reuse grant that we were able to attain for the company. They are also utilizing a local contractor, Southern Builders to complete the expansion.

Another project that we aren't managing in house but is occurring in our backyard outside of Hoffman is the revamping of the John Lentz shooting facility at Camp Millstone. I have been staying in close contact with the 2.3 million dollar project and it stands to add considerably to our visitor base coming to Richmond County. When the project is completed, 1000's of competitors and their families will be utilizing the facility for the State Championship shoots, these State shoots are always highly attended events.

I am pleased to announce that earlier this week we started the demo portion of the pool pump upgrade at the East Rockingham Park to upgrade our pool filtration system; this is the first major upgrade the pool pumps have seen in 30 years. Duffield Aquatics out of Anderson SC will mobilize on the project next week and it is scheduled to take approximately 30 days to complete. Cost is \$88,000

Budget season is upon us, I have conducted budget meetings with most of our core, larger department heads. Department request were turned in on Friday. Outside agencies including RCC and Richmond County Schools have until March 20<sup>th</sup> to submit their request. I plan on presenting the budget for FY 20/21 to the board in late May.

I did want to mention a few highlights that occurred over the last 2 weeks. I attended a legislative breakfast held at the Cole on the 24<sup>th</sup>, we received updates from RCC and from Raleigh our local representatives in attendance including Tom McInnis, Garland Pierce and Scott Brewer.

Earlier this week, Paige Burns our Cooperative Extension Director hosted a lunch and learn for all of our area poultry farmers. Topics covered included financing options for new and existing poultry farms and timber tracts; also reducing energy consumption by utilizing new technology at area farms was discussed. The event was highly attended with over 60 farmers being present.

One final reminder, our annual hazardous household waste day is scheduled for Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1pm in the Richmond County Health Department parking lot. At this time, items that typically aren't accepted at our landfill and boxesites will be collected. Those items include: paints, solvents, cleaners, drain openers, acids, batteries, propane cylinders, pool chemicals, & light tubes and ballast.

**ITEM NO. 6 Overview of Census 2020 - Tracy Parris, Planning Director - Discussion**

Census 2020 packet is being mailed out and should reach your home within the next week. Please respond by April 1st with your household information. The census is so important that your response is required by law and your answers are kept completely confidential. If you do not respond, a Census Bureau interviewer will be sent to your home to collect your answers in person. Count everyone in your home. This can be done online, by phone and by mail.

<https://2020census.gov>

You can go to this website above for more information.

**ITEM NO. 7 Update on Richmond County Airport - Jason Gainey, Airport Manager - Discussion**

Jason Gainey talked about the volunteer program that he started at the airport to get high schooler involved in volunteer work. The program allows high school students to trade volunteer work for flight instructions. Jason introduced Cole Dean to the board and stated he was the first to receive his license in this program.

Jason stated that the airport has gone from six airplanes to twenty-four airplanes. Fuel sales as increased and we have upgraded our fuel system.

The taxiway and fencing are close to completion. There is space available to rent if needing meeting or banquet facilities.

Jason wanted to let the public know that the military will be back at the airport for training.

**ITEM NO. 8 Request for Board Consideration of Dates for E & R Board of Appeals Meeting - Vagas Jackson, Tax Administrator - Decision**

Meeting set for Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 1:00pm

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

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

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

**ITEM NO.10 Update on Coronavirus - Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Health and Human Services, Director**

- Spread Person-to-Person close contact (within 6 feet)
- Through Respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly inhaled in the lungs.
- It is possible that a person can get COVID – 19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure-this is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses.

**Mild: Cold like Symptoms**

- Slight body aches or a mild headache.
- Sore Throat
- Dry Cough
- Sneezing.
- Low-grade fever

**Severe: Pnuemonia like Symptoms**

- Fever: sweating and shaking chills.
- Shortness of Breath
- Cough, which may produce greenish, yellow or even bloody mucus.
- Rapid, shallow breathing

**Prevention**

**Currently no vaccine**

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (6 feet)
- Avoid touching mouth, nose, eyes
- Stay home when sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then through tissue in trash
- Clean & disinfect frequently
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. If soap & water not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

**Local Preparedness**

- Richmond County Emergency Operations Plan
- COVID – 19 Annex Plan
- Regular Calls between state and local health departments, EMS and hospitals
- Expansion of NC Communicable Disease Data Base
- 24 hour Mon – Fri Business Hours (910)997-8301
  - **After Hours Call 911**
  - **CDC 24/7 epidemiologist (919) 733-3419**
- Supplies
- Training
- Test Kits

**Treatment**

- There is no specific treatment for COVID-19. Most people with illnesses caused by coronaviruses like COVID-19 will recover on their own. However, there are some things you can do to relieve your symptoms, including:
  - Taking pain and fever medications (caution: do not give aspirin to children).
  - Using a humidifier or taking a hot shower to ease a sore throat and cough.
  - Drinking plenty of liquids and stay home and rest.
  - Follow instructions from your local health department and health care provider for appropriate care.

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

**ITEM NO.11 Consent Agenda - Decision**

**A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 4, 2020 As Submitted by the Clerk for Review**

**B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for Month of January, 2020**

**C) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report for the Month of January 2020**

**D) Approval of Budget Amendment to use EM Grants from NCEM**

## **E) Approval of Budget Amendment for JCPC Teen Court Funding**

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

### **ITEM NO.12 Adjournment - Decision**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk

Dena R. Cook, NCCCC

Clerk to the Board

Richmond County Board of Commissioners