

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
1401 Fayetteville Road, Conference Room, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 07, 2020 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 07, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: Present in the room were Chairman Kenneth R Robinette, Vice-Chairman John B. Garner; Commissioners - Don M. Bryant, Jimmy L. Capps, and Ben T. Moss, Jr.. Remotely were Commissioners Tavares Bostic and Rick Watkins.

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

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Commissioner Ben Moss

Invocation was given by Commissioner Moss

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Garner, seconded by Commissioner Bryant.

Commissioner Jimmy Capps voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Commissioner Ben Moss and Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

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

Kim McCall

182 Waymon Chapel Road
Hamlet, NC

Ms. McCall stated that on 8-14-2012 the Richmond County Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments approved a Conditional Use Permit for Barhill Contracting to put in a 22 acres 15ft depth sandmine for a 10 year lease.

Her question is what date did Barnhill Contracting ask for a waiver requirement of 150ft to 50ft setback from Richmond County Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments? She would like to know if it was at the 9-12-2006 meeting of the RC Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Chairman Robinette said that the question will be given to Tracy Parris.

ITEM NO. 4 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Appointment to Lumber River Council of Governments Regional Aging Advisory Council - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

Vice-Chairman John Garner voted yes; Commissioner Ben Moss voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 5 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Re-appointment to Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

Commissioner Ben Moss voted yes; Commissioner Jimmy Capps voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Appointment to Richmond Community College Board of Trustees - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

Vice-Chairman John Garner voted yes; Commissioner Jimmy Capps voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Low Income Energy Assistance Outreach Plan - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

Vice-Chairman John Garner voted yes; Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ITEM NO. 8 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

On the County level we are doing everything in our control to stop the spread of Covid 19. We are still checking employee's temperatures and screening everyone before they enter any of our buildings. We have installed numerous Covid barriers and hand sanitizer dispensers at many of our county buildings and have even set up virtual interview rooms at DSS where face to face interaction with clients isn't necessary. Each room is equipped with audio and video 2 way communications; we are utilizing remote scanning and printing of all documents and a drop box for all completed applications. Each employee will be able to access all of rooms remotely from their offices. In addition, we are adding a digital check in process and an electronic reception area which will allow clients to self-check in and then be directed from a video screen to the appropriate video room. Our IT staff and building maintenance crews have done a tremendous job making all of the necessary accommodations for the various departments.

We opened our pool at East Rockingham park on 22nd of June with a limited amount of swimmers being allowed to enter the facility. We are still not fully open to the public in most of the County buildings and will follow Governor Coopers and CDC recommendations on opening fully to citizens. However we are continuing to witness increasing numbers in our positive cases almost daily. Dr. Jarrell and I both agree a good percentage of the increase positives can be attributed to the increased testing in our County which has more than doubled in the last month. However, there are other circumstances including not following recommendations and community spread that have led to the ramp up in cases in our County. As of today, we currently have 332 positive cases of Covid 19. To date we have tested 2834 and of 2440 have come back or inconclusive. 229 individuals have recovered. We currently have 96 active cases. We have had 7 deaths. (some are residents of other counties, inconclusive, pending, waiting) Monday - Friday 8AM - 4PM drive thru/referral needed. COVID phone number is 417-4947.

I did want to mention that property tax notices will be sent out next week starting on the 13th of July. We have tried to do a better job on getting these notices out earlier each year to provide our citizens ample time to pay annual property tax. Staying on the tax topic, I am pleased to announce that we have finalized our collection % numbers from last physical year and we hit 96.66%, which is our highest collection % ever achieved! Hats off to our tax office and all of the folks in our collection office. They worked extremely hard on this goal while their hands were tied and most of their collection enforcement tools weren't able to be utilized due to Covid 19. (wage garnishment, bank attachments etc.)

Our solid waste report is as follows: we picked up 289 bags for a total of approximately 3.2 tons. Additionally, 29 tires were removed; we cleaned up 21 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces. Our Solid Waste Enforcement Officer investigated 1 illegal dump site and issued 4 citations or notices.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce to the board that we are in the process of a pilot program to test propane to power our Sheriff's Department fleet. As you may recall, we switched our transit vans and buses to propane approximately 1 year ago and the results have been phenomenal. Fuel can be purchased for around \$1/ a gallon and a rebate is offered as well. We should realize some sizeable savings in fuel cost if all goes as planned with this project. Many larger forces have utilized propane for years on their fleets and advised that lost performance and fuel mileage isn't an issue to be concerned with. We will keep the board updated as we progress.

Our Anson County pump station project is nearing completion; an official completion date of July 20th has been targeted. As a reminder the 1.2 mil project has been completed and paid for in full by NCDOT in conjunction with the I73/74 project. No county taxpayer dollars or enterprise funds dollars were utilized to fund the project.

And last but not least I wanted to update the board on our census figures, as of yesterday Richmond County was 74th out of 100 with completion percentages. We are currently hovering around 49%. I urge all of our citizens to please complete your census questionnaire, as it is an extremely important tool that is utilized with gauging the amount of funding we will receive in Richmond County.

ITEM NO. 9 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for the 2021 Fire Contracts- Bob Smith, Emergency Services, Deputy Director - Decision

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

Commissioner Jimmy Capps voted yes; Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ITEM NO.10 Consent Agenda - Decision

A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting and Budget Work Session on June 02, 2020 as Submitted by the Clerk For Review

B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for the Month of May, 2020

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

D) Approval of Budget Amendment for Anson County Pump Station

E) Approval of Water Department Rules and Regulations Update

F) Approval of Transfer Equipment to Other Counties

G) Approval of Richmond County Libraries new Hours of Operation

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

Commissioner Jimmy Capps voted yes; Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

ITEM NO.11 Adjournment - Decision

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

Vice-Chairman John Garner voted yes; Commissioner Jimmy Capps voted yes; Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes; Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes; Chairman Kenneth Robinette voted yes and by unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk

Dena R. Cook, NCCCC

Clerk to the Board

Richmond County Board of Commissioners