

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
105 W. Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. with the following in attendance: Commissioner Jason Gainey, Commissioner Andy Grooms, Commissioner Toni Maples, Commissioner Robin Roberts, Commissioner Rick Watkins, Vice Chairperson Justin Dawkins and Chairperson Jeff Smart

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Pastor Steve Gilmer

Invocation was given by Pastor Steve Gilmer of Rockingham Church of God of Prophecy

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 3 Consent Agenda - Decision

A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on Monday, December 5, 2022 and Special Meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022 as Submitted by the Clerk for Review

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

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

D) Approval of Resolution to Submit Application for Rural Building Reuse Grant Funding for Project Coriolis

E) Approval of Richmond County JCPC Nomination for Board Member

F) Approval of Resolution Supporting a Step Pay Plan and Compensation Relief for Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Staff

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Maples 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 Presentation of First Health EMS Annual Report - Buddy Williams Director, First Health EMS Richmond - Discussion

First Helath EMS Richmond Director read the annual report to the board and answered questions.

ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Proclamation to Designate January 16, 2023 as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of County Attorney

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

ITEM NO. 8 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

Before I get into my report this evening, I did want to mention the passing of two pillars in our community over the last week with Mr. Russell Bennett and Mr. JC Watkins. They both served our community in many ways for their entire adult lives. Their accolades are far too numerous to list.. Please remember to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers during this tough time.

Next I want to highlight and review the bus wreck on US 1 in Hoffman on last Thursday.

We were notified at 355pm that a school bus was overturned off of US #1 with approximately twenty-five kids and the driver. There was a second vehicle with potentially three to four additional patients. Bob Smith, our Emergency Services Director and his team immediately activated all of their team, outside agencies and our full emergency management plan. The first group of four kids arrived at FirstHealth Richmond at 4:15pm. FirstHealth Richmond received a total of thirteen kids via EMS and one child via personal vehicle for a total of fourteen kids. Eight other kids were transferred to Moore, Scotland and Anson Hospitals. All were registered, evaluated, treated, and discharged within two hours with the exception of one. The last patient was discharged around 7:15pm.

Multiple agencies throughout the County assisted during the event, those agencies included:

Hoffman Fire and Rescue

FirstHealth Richmond EMS

Richmond County Emergency Management

Hamlet Fire and Rescue

Cordova Fire and Rescue

Rockingham Rescue Squad

Ellerbe Rescue Squad

Richmond County Sheriffs Office

All agencies played a vital role in this emergency preparedness event. It was great to see EVERYONE pulling together and creating a safe environment to transition quickly to care for our community.

We will complete an after action review this week because we can always learn from these situations- however at a high level review I can tell you- WE ROCKED!

Next, I have a few updates this evening from some of our current construction projects,

WATER DEPARTMENT

Starting off with our new Anson County Pump Station. pumps, motors and generator have been tested and all operated as required. Just a few minor issues to address. (grading, dress up) The station should be completely operational by months end.

Staying with water, We are finalizing some additional Customer Service upgrades related to our Water Billing system in April 2023. These will provide customers with a more user-friendly system that will allow them to view, manage and pay their accounts as needed.

AIRPORT

Runway Lighting rehab project is complete. The contractor has a few punchlist items and cleanup left.

Walker Whiteside Inc. did a great job on the project . Total Project cost came in slightly under the 323k that was anticipated. the project was 100% grant funded through NCDOT division of aviation. No county dollars went towards this project.

SOLID WASTE

The date has been set for our annual Household Waste collection day it is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th from 9:00AM to 1:00PM at the parking lot of the Richmond County Human Services Building. This is a joint effort involving Richmond County Solid Waste/NC Department. of Agriculture and our own Cooperative Extension Department.

Coming up in April 2023 will be the annual fall litter sweep as well in coordination with NCDOT. Dates have yet to be established but will be forthcoming.

Next, I did receive an update from East Rockingham Fire Dept that they are progressing with construction of their new substation on Homeplace Road footings and the concrete slab are scheduled to be poured later this week weather permitting . Total contract price came in at \$520,000. Southern Builders, out of Rockingham is erecting the building.

Segwaying to a few updates from DSS

Next our Low Income Energy Assistance Program or (LIEAP) is a federally-funded program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills is in full swing.

We received an allotment of \$552,196.00 in December and applications for households aged 60 or older, disabled persons receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) were eligible to sign up for assistance from December 1st through December 31st. Initial estimates of seniors energy assistance payments totaled at \$347,300 which served roughly 833 county residents 60 or older. An estimate of \$204,896.00 of energy assistance through LIHEAP was opened to the public as of January 3, 2023 and will run through March 31, 2023 for residents. Applications may be made online at the North Carolina ePass (NCDHHS-ePASS), on site at DSS or paper application can be dropped in the red box for eligibility determination.

Next, I did have a few updates and reminders from our Tax Department, its getting that time of year when I start tracking collection percentages daily. As of January 6th County taxes were to be paid in full and 2% penalties were added at that time. As of this morning, we are at 90.60% , for comparison at the end of January last year we came in at 93.27%. So we do have some ground to cover in the next three weeks to stay on track! Our team in tax is working vigorously, using all of their tools at their disposal to collect prior to June 30th to achieve our goal of 97.50%. Last year we achieved our highest collection percentage on record at 97.44%.

Next, I have our monthly solid waste report which is as follows:

Solid Waste roadside report—Our Solid Waste enforcement staff continues to work relentlessly they picked up 287 bags / 45 tires off of 25 different roadways for a total of 3.51 tons. NCDOT brought in 1.84 tons of roadside trash as well. Total for December was 5.35 tons.

Lastly, we did receive notice that starting on January 16th CSX will start routine maintenance on rail crossings mainly on the east west main line from Anson County line to Hamlet. Some of the locations include...

S 253.23 Hamlet Ave
SF 253.54 SR1811-Raleigh St
SF 255.62 Private
SF 256.22 Private
SF 256.42 SR1918-Bass Dr.
SF 256.96 Beaunit Ave
SF 257.39 SR1925-Biltmore Dr
SF 257.75 Private
SF 257.97 SR1650-Long Dr
SF 259.52 SR1966-Caroline St
SF 260.58 Midway St
SF 263.04 SR1109-Zion Church Rd

ITEM NO. 9 Adjournment - Decision

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 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**