

**Minutes**  
**Richmond County Board of Commissioners**  
**1401 Fayetteville Road, Conference Room, Rockingham, NC**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 6, 2021 5:30PM**

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: Commissioner Don M. Bryant, Commissioner Rick Watkins, Commissioner Toni R. Maples, Commissioner Andy Grooms, Chairman Jeff Smart, Commissioner Tavares Bostic and Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins

**ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Commissioner Tavares Bostic**

Invocation was given by Commisisoner Bostic

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

Chairman Smart asked the Board to amended the agenda to include items 12 and 13. Item# 12 is for a vote on the Tolling Agreement and Item# 13 is to request a Closed Session

By a motion of Commissioner Don Bryant and seconded by Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins. Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commisioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

**ITEM NO. 3 Consent Agenda - Decision**

**A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 2, 2021  
as Submitted by the Clerk for Review**

**B) Approval of Draft Minutes of Special Meeting on March 25, 2021  
as Submitted by the Clerk for Review**

**C) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for Month of  
February, 2021**

**D) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report  
for the Month of February 2021**

**E) Approval of Budget Amendment for CDC COVID-19 Vaccination  
Program**

By a motion of Commissioner Rick Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Toni Maples. Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, 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 Board Appointments to the Friends of Richmond County Aging Services Board - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision**

By a motion of Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins and seconded by Commissioner Don Bryant. Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

**ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Richmond County CDBG-CV Grant #20-V-3517 Adoption of CDBG Compliance Documents - Bryan Land, County Manger - Decision**

By a motion of Commissioner Rick Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Andy Grooms. Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, by unanimous vote. Motion carried

**ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Board Appointments for the Southeastern Economic Development Commission - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision**

By a motion of Commissioner Tavares Bostic and seconded by Commissioner Andy Grooms. Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Rick Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, by unanimous vote. Motion carried

## **ITEM NO. 8 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land**

I would like to start out with a brief update on our property tax collection percentage. The Tax and Collections department teams continue to work diligently. As of the end of March, we are @ 95.56%, an increase of 1.25% over last month. And one full percentage point of where we ended last March @ 94.57%. It is important to note, this was our best March, year to date percentage on record. It's always a great trend when you can outpace your previous years collections. We are still cautiously optimistic about achieving our goal of a 97% collection rate through the hard work and dedication of our collections staff. We have a great team in collections!

Staying on the topic of tax and the budget, we are right in the midst of budget season for our next physical year. We have received all request from our county department heads and also outside agencies including the schools. The Finance department and I are meeting and discussing the budget daily to prioritize the needs and request. We are still waiting on two crucial pieces of information. The final revised bids on our health insurance and also the revised proposal from First Health on the Ambulance contract. We hope to have both of those documents in hand by Friday and we should have a clearer picture of our financial situation.

As I have stated previously, a cost of living adjustment is a high priority of mine and our Finance department as our employees are approaching four years without a COLA! I will keep the board updated as the budget process progresses. We tentatively have the 12<sup>th</sup> of May slated as a date for a budget meeting with the board.

Our solid waste report is as follows: we picked up 474 bags for a total of approximately 5.2 tons this month. Additionally, 16 tires were removed; we cleaned up 24 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces. Airport and Hatcher roads were picked up multiple times this month. Our joint effort with the municipalities to pick up Highway 74 from Walmart to the prior Sandhills Hospital was a great success with 85 bags being picked up on this stretch of roadway alone. I continue to urge citizens to join in against the fight of the litter epidemic.

Jacqueline Welch, Allen Hodges, Jerry Austin and Bryan Legett are working on an Earth Day cleanup event for Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00AM -11:00AM. We have had a great response so far. 41 groups have signed up totaling 469 volunteers. Teddar Trash solutions has offered their equipment free of charge as well as picking up bags across the county after the event is over. Jaqueline wanted me to mention a few other individuals that have pitched in to make the event a reality, Judy Whitley, Terry Rush, Mary Wooten and Commissioner Maples. Additionally, after this 1 day event concludes Gary Richardson with Place of Grace has graciously offered to provide 2-3 guys weekly to assist Allen and our crews with roadside cleanup. Hopefully the grass roots effort will continue to snow ball and other groups and organizations will pitch in long after earth day has passed.

Transitioning to the Health side, Dr Tommy Jarrell, Cheryl Speight and the entire Health Department staff are continuing the partnership with First Health on handling the day-to-day duties with Covid vaccine clinic. I won't elaborate too in depth on the Covid update as Dr Jarrell will be presenting to the board in a few minutes. However, I will provide the latest statistics:

As of today our County Covid numbers are as follows, we currently have had 4,407 positive cases for Covid 19 . . To date we have tested 46,251 and of those 41,844 have come back negative or inconclusive. 4,245 individuals have recovered. We currently have 70 active cases. We have had 92 deaths, 3 additional since our last meeting.

On the economic development front, Myrick const is progressing well on the 40k sf facility they are constructing for Global Packaging at our Marks Creek Industrial Park. Rough grading and erosion control has been completed. The pre engineered metal building has been ordered. Myrick is still projecting an October completion date for the project. Additionally, I would like to recognize our Economic Developer and Management Analyst Martie Butler for being appointed to a three-year term on the Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

One last update from Economic Development, we are starting planning for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Raffle at the Rock. This was the outdoorsman related raffle that we started last year. The event was very successful in its first year and we are hoping for a bigger and better turnout this year!.

Just as a reminder, Jimmy Quick, Dr. Jarrell and I are working on our reopening plan and are schedule to implement the plan starting on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>. You will still notice some minimal restrictions being in place and we urge our citizens to continue utilizing drive through service when it is provided as many buildings will have limited space available due to on going covid restrictions.

RC Aging services is sponsoring an event on Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at our Human Services parking lot on Caroline St to remember the lives lost from Covid. A flyer for the event is in your packets. Please call Jaqueline Welch @ 997 4491 for more details.

One last reminder, our annual household hazardous waste day is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am -1pm at the Richmond County Health Department Parking Lot at 127 Caroline St. Some of the items accepted are: oil based paints, aerosols, solvents and degreasers, household cleaners, acids, pool chemicals, batteries, fluorescent light tubes, propane cylinders, and latex paints. All these items aren't typically accepted at our convenient box site locations.

**ITEM NO. 9 COVID 19 Update from Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Director of Health and Human Services - Discussion**

ITEM# 1

**ITEM NO.10 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Richmond County Funding Plan for FY 2021-2022 - Curtis Ingram, JCPC Chairman - Decision**

By a motion of Commissioner Don Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Tavares Bostic. Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

**ITEM NO.11 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Proposed Planning and Development for Parcels Located in Split Jurisdiction- Tracy Parris, Planning Director - Decision**

By a motion of Commissioner Don Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Andy Grooms. Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

**ITEM NO.12 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Tolling Agreement Between Richmond County and the Cities of Hamlet and Rockingham (Amended)**

By a motion of Commissioner Andy Grooms and seconded by Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins. Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes and Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

**ITEM NO.13 Closed Session (Amended)**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins to go into closed session for G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6) and seconded by Commissioner Tavares Bostic. Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes and Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Richmond County Board of Commissioners went into closed session @ 6:13PM

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins to go back into open session and seconded by Commissioner Rick Watkins. Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes and Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Richmond County Board of Commissioners went back into open session @ 6:35PM

**ITEM NO.14 Adjournment - Decision**

By a motion of Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins and seconded by Commissioner Tavares Bostic. Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Commissioner don Bryant voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Vice Chariman Justin Dawkins voted yes and Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

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