

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
105 W. Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, May 02, 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, Chairperson Jeff Smart and Vice Chairperson Justin Dawkins was remote

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation

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

ITEM NO. 2 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Jeff Smart lead the pledge of allegiance

ITEM NO. 3 Approval of Agenda - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 4 Consent Agenda - Decision

**A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 3, 2023
as Submitted by the Clerk for Review**

**B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for Month of
March, 2023**

**C) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report
for the Month of March 2023**

**D) Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund Year End
Adjustment for Other Funds**

**E) Approval of Budget Amendment for General Fund Year End
Adjustments for Departments**

F) Approval of Budget Amendment for General Assistance

G) Approval of Richmond County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

FY 23-24 Funding and JCPC Certification

H) Approval of Richmond County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council FY 22-23 Revised County Funding and Budget Revisions

I) Approval of Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott Adams, & Co. P.A.

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

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

No one signed up to speak

ITEM NO. 6 Update from Sandhills Center - Victoria Whitt, Chief Executive Officer - Discussion

Mrs. Whitt told the board that she was retiring and that Anthony Ward would be taking her position as CEO for Sandhills Center effective July 1, 2023.

This makes the nineteenth year that no increase request was given to the county for assistance

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Advertisement of Tax Liens on Real Property for Failure to Pay Taxes - Vagas Jackson, Tax Administrator - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 8 Approval of Appointments to the Richmond County Public Library Board and Richmond County Public Library Board of Trustees - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 9 Approval of Appointments to the Richmond County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Board - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.10 Request for Board Consideration of Approval for Budget Work Session - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.11 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Proclamation for Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.12 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Proclamation for Memorial Day - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.13 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Proclamation for Older Americans Month - Bryan Land, County, Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.14 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Proclamation for World Multiple Sclerosis Day - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.15 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of a Proclamation for Clerks to the Board of County Commissioners' Week - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO.16 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

The last two weeks have been jam packed with a full gamut of exciting events around our county. We are blessed to have so many niche events that draw people from out of Richmond County and the impacts to our local economy are extraordinary. We had Springfest held in downtown Rockingham with our own Bucky Covington and Erik Hawks headlining. Also, at the speedway we hosted the sunrise to sunrise music festival. The Cole auditorium played host to the Dance Machine Americas National Dance Competition, the Dragway played host to the Harley Drags and the Lentz Shooting facility hosted the state sporting clay competition which had over 3000 attendees! The only issue being we didn't have ample hotel rooms to host everyone for all of these events which is a great problem to have. However, our neighbors in Moore, Scotland, and South Carolina were thrilled to have the overflow.

Segwaying to a few updates from our Tax department. Its getting that time of year when I keep a very close eye on our collection percentage.

Our team in collections continues to do a phenomenal job with tax collections. Our tax collection percentage continues to increase but at a slower pace as expected. As of this morning we stand at a 96.69% collection rate! For comparison, at the end of May last year we stood at 96.98%, so we do have some work still ahead of us. For comparison at the end of April 2022, our final collection percentage sat at a 96.28%, fast forward to April 2023, we sat at a 96.61%. breaching our all time April record by a full 3/10ths ! Volume in our collections department should start to tick up slightly as more delinquent taxpayers are paying before names are published in the local paper. The Tax department will be mailing our delinquent notices later this week As a reminder, we have set an internal goal of 97.50% collection rate. 97.36% was last years final collection rate

Our solid waste report is as follows: we had a very strong month for roadside cleanup, our statistics ramped up considerably. We picked up a total of approx. 9.44 tons. We cleaned up twenty-three different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces.

Our Household Hazardous Waste Day held last month was a great success. We were almost able to fill a tractor trailer with items that typically aren't accepted at the box sites. We had seventy-four cars come to the event with 4.21 tons being collected.

Lastly, our 2023 Spring Litter Sweep campaign was also a great success!! It was slightly hampered due to weather. We had a strong turnout with ninety-three volunteers picking up 105 bags at 1,236 lbs.

Thanks again to all of the businesses , industries, and other local groups that participated. Thanks to Jacqueline Welch, Bryan Leggett, and Jerry Austin for spearheading the event.

Seg- waying to our 23-24 budget. Budget season is progressing well. We have all been extremely busy the last few weeks. We aren't balanced yet, but we are progressing in the right direction daily. We are still meeting with various department heads daily and we are continuing to tweak budget request while compiling all of the needs and request into the comprehensive budget file. I want to continue to personally thank all of our department heads for the outstanding jobs they have done on meeting the challenges at hand with this years budget. We will continue to strive to operate more efficiently and effectively while having to absorb cost increases that most of us haven't seen in our lifetime. We are certainly in uncharted territory with the extreme inflationary environment we are currently in. As well as witnessing interest rates fluctuating from zero to north of 5% in less than a year. With that being said, our department heads should be commended on their efforts during this budget process as most of their budgets are coming in flat or with minimal increases. We all work vigorously to find alternate methods of funding such as grant opportunities when available to lessen the burden on our tax payers.

We also met with the school system a few weeks ago. As you are aware, the schools are one of the largest sectors of our budget coming in at approximately twelve million or one-fifth of our total annual budget. We are continuing to strive to increase teacher supplements. Teacher supplements have been and will continue to be a priority of our Board to attain and retain the best and brightest staff available. I want the board to rest assured Cary and I have the supplement increase plugged into this year's draft budget. As I mentioned earlier, our budget session is slated for Wednesday, May 17th at 1:00pm.

And lastly, I did want to briefly remind everyone on a few important dates and reminders Our annual National Day of Prayer will be held Thursday, May 4th at noon in front of the old courthouse.

Our water department will not be accepting payments on Thursday, May 25th and Friday, May 26th due to software updates being performed. Payments will still be accepted through our night drop box and automated phone system.

We will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

ITEM NO.17 Adjournment - Decision

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 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, County Manager - Decision**