

Agenda
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
105 W. Franklin Street, Courtroom C, Rockingham, NC
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:30PM

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 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, Commissioner Tavares Bostic and Chairman Jeff Smart
Remotely: Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Commissioner Watkins

Invocation was given by Commissioner Rick Watkins

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 3 Consent Agenda - Decision

A) Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 1, 2021, Special Meeting on June 17, 2021 and Special Meeting on June 29, 2021 as Submitted by the Clerk for Review

B) Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for Month of May, 2021

C) Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report for the Month of May 2021

D) Approval of the Interlocal Agreement between Richmond County Richmond County Sheriff Department and the Town of Ellerbe

E) Approval of Budget Amendment for JCPC FY 2021-2022 Additional Funding

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Bostic 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 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Reappointment to the Richmond Community College Board of Trustees -Bryan Land, County Manager -Decision

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

ITEM NO. 6 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Resolution Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funding - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 7 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Reappointment to the Richmond County Public Library Advisory Board - Bryan Land, County Manager - Decision

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

ITEM NO. 8 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

I always like to start out with a brief update on our property tax collection percentage. As you know, last year we set a goal to achieve a 97% collection rate. And this evening I am pleased to announce not only did we reach our goal, but we surpassed it by a substantial amount of .7 tenths and ended up with a tax collection percentage of 97.36%. This is our highest collection percentage rate on record. This is an incredible feat and I am extremely proud of our Tax Administrator Vegas Jackson, Tax Collector Michelle Holden and their entire collections department for their diligent work to achieve this goal.

Staying on the topic of tax and the budget, we are busy working on year end closeout in our finance office. Auditors from Thompson, Price have been in the office conducting field work over the last week. Our finance officer, Cary Garner and the staff in our finance office will be compiling final revenue and expenditure figures over the next 4-5 weeks. We should expect our final audit to be available around December.

Our solid waste report is as follows: we picked up 495 bags for a total of approx. 3.6 tons this month. Additionally, 16 tires were removed; we cleaned up 27 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces.. Its important to note, some roadways were picked up multiple times including Airport Road which was cleaned four times. We continue to receive positive feedback from the Earth day cleanup event 2two months ago which was a huge success Countywide and plans are already in the works for a follow-up event in the early fall. I continue to urge citizens to join in against the fight of the litter epidemic Transitioning to the Health side, our interim health director, Cheryl Speight and the entire Health Department staff are continuing to administer covid test and covid vaccines to our citizens.

Currently covid Vaccines are offered Monday-Thursday 8:00AM until 5:00PM, and Friday 8:00AM until 11:00AM at the Health Dept. No appointments are needed. The Health Department is offering vaccines at local community events throughout the county. Two special evening clinics have been held in the past two months to offer vaccine to high school students. We are currently averaging 21 vaccinations per day.

Covid testing is still offered behind the Health Department Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00AM until 5:00PM and Saturdays 10:AM until 3:00PM.

As of today, our County Covid numbers are as follows: we currently have 4,877 positive cases of Covid-19. To date we have tested 51,618 and of those, 46,741 have come back negative or inconclusive. 4,732 have recovered. We currently have 47 active cases. We have had 98 deaths.

As far as percentages and vaccination updates. The following are our latest stats:

Richmond County residents who have received at least one dose of vaccine: 16,109

Richmond County residents fully vaccinated: 15,108

Percent fully vaccinated: 34%

Percent Richmond County age 75 and older fully vaccinated: 70%

Percent Richmond County age 65-74 fully vaccinated: 73%

Percent Richmond County age 50-64 fully vaccinated: 52%

Percent Richmond County age 25-49 fully vaccinated: 26%

Percent Richmond County age 18-24 fully vaccinated: 15%

Percent Richmond County age 12-17 fully vaccinated: 7%

I did want to update the board briefly on the status of our 900k CDBG-CV grant, this is the 900k in assistance we will be receiving to disburse to citizens struggling with paying utility, rent and mortgage payments. We have had multiple calls and zoom meetings with representatives from the Department of Commerce on the status of the funds. Richmond County is in the pipeline to receive the funding and commerce advises we were still in a holding pattern but the funds should be released soon. Our Social Services Director Robby Hall has advised, his staff have met about the funding, created the referral forms and developed the process for disbursement. They are just waiting for the funds to arrive. As a reminder we will be disbursing \$1000 max to around 900 families in Richmond County. Please continue to view our social media outlets and County website for updates on the program.

The transition to contract operation with K2 solutions at the animal shelter has started. Last week Jimmy, myself and the staff met with the executive team of K2 for a meet and greet with staff and to discuss K2's vision and mission for the shelter in the future. Later this week additional operational teams from K2 will be onsite reviewing and comparing SOP's and inventory control at the shelter. A request for the shelter operating license has been submitted to the state by K2 and the license is expected to be granted within the next two weeks.

On the economic development front, Myrick Construction has hit the ground running at the Marks Creek Industrial Park, the site of the old Tartan Boat Factory. The concrete pad for the 40k sf facility has been poured, steel erection is complete and the roof has been set. Myrick still feels confident with their late October completion date they have targeted. Staying on the Economic Development topic, Martie Butler our Economic Developer and Management Analyst and I have been busy preparing for our 2nd annual "Raffle at the Rock". The prize list is bigger and better than last year including many guns, cash prizes, guided hunts, a Polaris 450 four-wheeler, a John Deere gator & a John Deere zero turn mower. This year we have also added two early bird cash drawings as well. This year's event will be a live event, held in conjunction with Hoptoberfest on Saturday, October 2nd. Please check our County Economic Development website for ways to purchase tickets or call directly to (910)997-8190.

ITEM NO. 9 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Interlocal Agreements/Resolution for Building Inspection Services - Tracy Parris, Planning Director - Decision

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

ITEM NO.10 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of the Request for an Order to Demolish and Remove - Tracy Parris, Planning Director - Decision

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

ITEM NO.11 Request for Board Consideration of Approval of Annual Fire Contracts - Bob Smith, Emergency Services, Director - Decision

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

ITEM NO.12 Request for Board Consideration of Approval to Adopt Cross Connection Ordinance - Jerry Austin, Jr., Public Works Director - Decision

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

ITEM NO.13 Adjournment - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Watkins, seconded by Commissioner Bostic 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**