

# **RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**APRIL 11, 2013**

## **MINUTES**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Richmond County, Virginia, held on the 11th day of April 2013 thereof in the Public Meeting Room of the County Office Building.

**Present:**

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman  
Courtney M. Sisson, Vice-Chairman  
Richard E. Thomas, Member  
Jean C. Harper, Member  
John L. Haynes, Jr., Member

**Also Present:**

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator  
Jennifer L. Clark, Finance Officer  
Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent, Richmond County Public Schools  
Susan H. Johns, Clerk, Richmond County Public Schools  
Jennifer W. Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue  
Douglas A. Bryant, Sheriff  
D. Barry Sanders, Code Administrator  
T. Richard English, Code Compliance Officer  
Mitch Paulette, Captain, EMS  
David Brown, VDOT  
Jack Clark, Rancorn Wildman (architectural firm)  
Nelson Rancorn, Rancorn Wildman (architectural firm)  
Mark Furgurson, SKANSKA (Clerk of the Works Firm)  
Representative from Timmons Group (Civil Engineer)  
John Hutt, Attorney (County Land Sales)  
Dianne Saison, Northern Neck News  
Public Comment:  
Rusty Acree

### **CALL TO ORDER; INVOCATION – CHAIRMAN SANDERS**

Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led everyone in the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

## **VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. David Brown, Residency Administrator, gave an update on the maintenance issues of the county, such as cutting brush, which interfered in site distances; paving season is here; VDOT will advise Mr. Quicke if there are issues where there may be delays in areas in the county.

Mr. Brown announced that the results of the speed study on Farnham Creek Road have been completed and the recommendation was to lower the speed to 45 mph. VDOT will proceed with installing the signage of the reduced speed.

The Downing Bridge inspection is slated to begin the week of April 15-26, 2013. This will be a routine safety inspection on the bridge and motorists should expect delays on the Route 360 bridge over the Rappahannock River. The Downing Bridge connects Richmond County and Essex County at Tappahannock. Real time listings of work zones, delays and road conditions in Virginia are available on VDOT's 24-hour traffic and travel information website [www.511virginia.org](http://www.511virginia.org). Motorists can also access 511 Virginia by calling 511 from any telephone in Virginia. The VDOT message board will also be giving information on the inspection of the bridge and Mr. Quicke suggested putting it on the county's website.

Mr. Brown also spoke about the upcoming Six Year Improvement Plan and requested the Board of Supervisors hold a work session on their next meeting (May 9, 2013) followed by a public hearing. VDOT will do all the advertising for the meeting and requested the Board approve advertising and the public hearing at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Brown also discussed the funding formula from the Governor's Transportation Bill. The final numbers will be given to the County Administrator prior to the meeting.

***“On a motion made by Courtney M. Sisson, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to schedule a public hearing on the Richmond County Six Year Improvement Plan for Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room.”***

Mr. Brown reported that VDOT representatives met with business owners on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 and the recommendation was to maintain the street as is but allow for pedestrian crossing.

Chairman Sanders thanked Mr. Brown for working with the businesses on Court Circle and coming up with an agreeable recommendation.

Chairman Sanders asked if VDOT could apply some stone to Emmanuel Church Road as a result of having issues with mud after rains.

## **RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent, Richmond County Public Schools, introduced Jack Clark, Nelson Rancorn, Rancorn Wildman Architects, and Mark Furgurson, SKANSKA (Clerk of the Works) and a representative from Timmons Group (civil engineer on the project).

Mr. Clark gave a brief overview of the site plan of the gymnasium, auditorium and classroom wing of both Elementary and High Schools. Mr. Clark also discussed the transportation route for buses and parent/student drop-off and pick-up. This plan will eliminate the bottleneck of the buses and other traffic.

Mr. Clark also discussed the improvements to the athletic portion such as track and practice fields.

Supervisor Thomas noted the plans showing the natural lighting. Supervisor Haynes asked what the square footage of the gymnasium was. Mr. Clark stated approximately 10,000 square feet.

Chairman Sanders asked Dr. Smith how the Resource Officer was working out with circulating between the three schools. Dr. Smith stated he had heard nothing but positive comments.

## **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Douglas A. Bryant reported that the Sheriff's Office has dispatched 662 calls (fire, police & rescue) since March 14, 2013 making the total calls for 2013 at 2139.

The Northern Neck Regional Jail population for Richmond County this week is 35.

The total delinquent fines and costs collected for the month of February 2013 was \$173.45 making the total delinquent fines and costs collected since April 2007 - \$120,994.92.

The Sheriff's Office is pleased to report that two subjects have been arrested who were breaking into local businesses and worked with the surrounding counties to clear several other burglaries in the area. The subjects are being held in the Northern Neck Regional Jail and will be going through the court process.

The Sheriff's Office coordinated with the Town Police for traffic control of the Rappahannock Church of Christ 5K run on April 6<sup>th</sup> and said he was pleased to report everything went well.

The Sheriff's Office is planning to provide security and assist the Rappahannock High School on the upcoming Prom-2013, which is being held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The After Prom Party will be held at the Fitness Center in Tappahannock.

The Sheriff's Office is coordinating with Rappahannock Community College for the National Drug Take Back Day which will be held on April 27, 2013. There will be drug collection stations set up at the Sheriff's Office and Rappahannock Community College. The hours of collections will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **TREASURER**

Mr. Quicke reviewed the Trial Balance Report for the month of March 2013 noting that the line item "Community Park Electric Service in the amount of \$13,877.00" has been finalized with Northern Neck Electric.

As far as the uncollected county taxes is concerned, the DMV stops have been put in place for personal property taxes and the land sales for real estate taxes is also in the process.

### **COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE**

Mrs. Jennifer W. Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue, stated that state income taxes are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> and the Personal Property Forms are also due May 1<sup>st</sup>, which enable owners to avoid a penalty on their personal property tax bills.

Mrs. Delano plans on running some notices in the Northern Neck News to remind the citizens of the deadlines.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Mr. Quicke gave the following report for the activities for Animal Control for the month of March 2013: 22 dog calls; 9 dogs taken to shelter, 5 were owner surrenders; 4 cat calls; 2 wildlife calls (coyote with pups and skunk). Total calls for the month – 28.

### **CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Mr. Richard English, Code Compliance Officer, presented the following activities for his department for the month of March 2013: 0 – site plans were submitted or reviewed regarding E&S and Stormwater Management; there are 30 active land disturbing projects in the county; 2 land disturbing projects were completed; 4 new land disturbing permits were issued; made a total of 50 E&S site inspections; there was not a Wetlands Hearing held in March 2013 (there will be a Wetlands Hearing on April 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. with one item on the agenda).

## **DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING**

Mr. Quicke gave a brief report on the activities of the Planning & Zoning Department for the month of March 2013 (5 zoning permits issued for the month).

The Richmond County Planning Commission held a public hearing on Monday, April 8, 2013 for a special exception in order to construct a 195 foot telecommunications tower. This special exception was recommended for approval and a public hearing will need to be scheduled for May 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. for the Board of Supervisors to hear the request.

*“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to hear a special exception request on the telecommunications tower.”*

Mr. Quicke told the Board that the position for Assistant County Administrator/Director of Planning & Zoning had been advertised and the deadline is May 2, 2013.

## **BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Mr. D. Barry Sanders presented the building permit report for the month of March 2013. There were 17 new projects that begun with fees collected of \$1,659.40 and construction costs of \$866,886.44.

Mr. Sanders stated that the Family Dollar Store plans had been presented to him and he was pleased with the plans. Wellesley Place, another new business, recently located itself in the Warsaw Village Shopping Center near Food Lion. This company is an event planning business (wedding, reception, anniversary, birthday, retirement, class reunions). It is a 9,000 square foot building and the owner has been pleased with the bookings thus far. A business named Jump Zone will be locating in the Times Square Shopping Center. This will be for children’s parties, etc. They will have inflatable devices for the children to use at the events. The owner of the Buy-Rite (old Levi building) is considering using the facility for craft shows, gun shows, and boat shows which would be a nice use for the building.

## **CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Captain Mitch Paulette, Richmond County Department of Emergency Services, presented the call report for March 2013 as follows: 109 – calls; 5 – calls answered after 2000 by RCDES, and RCVFD personnel; 5 – calls for mutual aid ALS providers from Northumberland County; 0 – calls for mutual aid into Richmond County.

On Saturday, March 16, 2013, C-shift had two cardiac arrests back to back, both with ROSC and flown to MCV.

On Tuesday, March 19, 2013, a shift flew a burn patient from a fire to MCV.

### **FIRE CHIEF**

Captain Paulette gave the call report for the Richmond County Volunteer Fire Department for March 2013 as follows: 45 – calls with mostly brush fires and illegal fires set before the burn ban times.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Sanders opened the floor for the public comment period.

Mr. Rusty Acree, 193 Front Street, Sharps, Virginia presented the following talking points:

#### Non-domicile Students:

- Still not intuitive to Mr. Acree that there are no net costs per out of county student
- Superintendent hedged when asked if he would certify that there are no net costs to the County per each non-domicile student admitted into the Richmond County Public Schools
- Mr. Acree saw no analysis at the Richmond County School Board meeting held Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> that showed there were no net out of pocket costs associated with non-domicile students and that they were self-supportive

#### Pay Raises for Teachers:

- Board of Supervisors at this evening's meeting will be deliberating on the proposed county budget which includes increased funding for teacher pay raises as part of the school budget.
- In Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>'s presentation regarding non-domicile students, Mr. Acree asked the Superintendent what student to teacher ratio with he was comfortable with. Mr. Acree referred to the data he presented in his presentation showing approximately an 18:1 student teacher ratio in grades 1-6 for the question. The Superintendent stated he was comfortable with that number as an average for the RCPS. The Superintendent cited studies that showed that there was no discernible difference in student performance with student-teacher ratios in the range of 13:1 to 20:1 and that student performance was linked closely to the abilities of the teacher, ex, depending on the skills of the teacher, student performance was impacted with ratios as high 25:1. Mr. Acree concurred that he also thought the sweet spot was about 18-20:1.
- Based on the data provided, for the RCPS, there are 1167 students and 107 teachers/aides. This equates to a ratio of about 10:1.
- This data suggests the RCPS is overstaffed based on the Superintendent's

“comfort level”.

- Without raising current spending levels, pay raises for teachers could be paid for at current funding levels by a modest reduction in staffing achieved by early retirements. These cost savings could be redistributed and passed on to the remaining teachers in the form of pay raises. In Mr. Acree’s opinion, the solution for pay raises must come from within the RCPS system and not from more spending by the Board of Supervisors.

Unemployment Data:

- The most current data obtained Wednesday, April 10, 2013 from the VEC shows the unemployment rate for Richmond County for January 2013 as 11.2%. VEC data shows that this equates to 381 unemployed citizens. According to VEC data, the 11.2% unemployment rate is 5% higher than the state unemployment rate. Knowing that the rate is actually higher if we considered those who are under-employed, federal workers furloughed by the sequester and the long term unemployed who have simply given up looking for work and are no longer counted. Also knowing that there are approximately 50 county employees and from the data from yesterday approximately 100 teachers (150 public employees vs. 381 unemployed citizens).
- Without prejudice regarding the merits of a pay raise, how in good conscious can the County grant pay raises to the public sector which must be shouldered by all taxpayers when so many of the County’s citizens in the private sector are struggling?
- The public sector should share in the burden of weak economic times
- Granting any pay raise would be a public relations disaster and be interpreted as a slap in the face to the private sector citizens of the County who don’t feed at the public trough. Mr. Acree urged the Board to consider this data from the VEC when deliberating the budget this evening.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Sanders closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**COURTHOUSE RFP – PAINTING AND CAULKING**

Mr. Quicke presented the two proposals for the work to be done to the exterior of the Courthouse. The proposals are as follows: J. L. Clark Painting - \$8,800.00 and Eagle River Construction - \$14,690.

The project will be paid out of the Courthouse Maintenance Fund which shows a balance of \$34,560.72 on the Treasurer’s Trial Balance Report for March 2013.

Mr. Quicke requested the Board to authorize the County Administrator to accept the proposal from J. L Clark, and to enter into an agreement for the painting services.

***“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to authorize the County Administrator to accept the proposal from J. L. Clark and enter into an agreement for the painting services.”***

#### **REQUEST FROM BAY CONSORTIUM**

Mr. Quicke presented a letter from Michael D. Jenkins, Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board, Inc., requesting the Board of Supervisors give the County Administrator signatory authority for Bay Consortium Workforce Investment Board as done in the past (William E. Duncanson, former County Administrator has been the signatory for the Board of Supervisors until his retirement.).

***“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to appoint Mr. R. Morgan Quicke as the signatory authority for the Workforce Investment Board on behalf of the Richmond County Board of Supervisors.”***

#### **LEASE OF EXTENSION AGENT OFFICE**

Mr. Quicke said it had come to his attention that the five (5) year lease of the Extension Office, located at 6128 Richmond Road, expired on April 1, 2013. At the provision of the expired lease, we are now operating on a month to month lease until a new agreement can be reached. Mr. Quicke noted that Mr. Liddington, Extension Agent, said the space was working fine for the Extension Office.

Supervisor Haynes stated that he had reviewed the lease agreement and thought it to be atypical as the maintenance burden is placed on the tenant.

It was the consensus of the Board, that Mr. Quicke be allowed to work with Mr. William E. Northern (landlord) to renegotiate the lease for no more than a 2-year lease agreement with some modifications in regard to the maintenance being the responsibility of the landlord.

#### **REQUEST FROM THE TOWN OF WARSAW**

Mr. Quicke presented a letter from John M. Slusser, Warsaw Town Manager (on behalf of the Warsaw Town Council), requesting the Richmond County Board of Supervisors schedule public hearings that they may hold at a time other than 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Occasionally, it creates a conflict with the Town’s regularly scheduled meeting being held at the same time. There was discussion at the last meeting by at least two council members who indicated they would have liked to have attended the public hearing but were unable to due to so because of the conflicting hours.



The letter went on stating that it forces other Richmond County residents (some of whom may be Town residents) to have to choose between the Council meeting and the County's public hearing. Council understands that the conflict caused by the scheduling of the public hearing was coincidental but asks that consideration be given to the conflict in the future scheduling.

Supervisor Haynes agreed that it does create a scheduling issue occasionally and Mr. Quicke noted that it could be addressed in the Richmond County Board of Supervisors By-Laws which are adopted at the January meeting.

The Board of Supervisors took no action on this issue at this meeting.

### **MONTHLY APPROPRIATIONS**

*“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to approve the appropriations for the Richmond County Public Schools for the month of May 2013 in the amount of \$1,124,322.00.”*

*“On a motion made by Courtney M. Sisson, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to approve the appropriations for the Richmond County Department of Social Services for the month of May 2013 in the amount of \$85,000.00.”*

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 14, 2013**

*“On a motion made by Courtney M. Sisson, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to accept the Minutes of the March 14, 2013 meeting as submitted.”*

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Supervisor Sisson asked what was decided on the sidewalk repair. Mr. Quicke stated that half would be repaired this year and the other half in the next fiscal year. This project will also be paid out of the Courthouse Maintenance Fund.

Supervisor Haynes stated he had several citizens ask about the Helena Chemical Company public hearing and noted that it was advertised in the local newspaper two-weeks prior to the hearing as cited in the Code of Virginia.

Chairman Sanders recessed for a 10 minute break.

**CLOSED SESSION**

*“I, Courtney M. Sisson, move that the Board reconvene in closed session to discuss the following as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711()(3), a matter involving the: acquisition of property for public purposes; disposition of public property.”*

**CERTIFICATION MOTION AFTER RECONVENING IN PUBLIC SESSION:**

*F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye*

*“I, Courtney M. Sisson, move that the Board certify that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion.”*

**RECESS**

Chairman Sanders recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m. for the budget work session.

**RECONVENEMENT – APRIL 11, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**

Members Present: F. Lee Sanders, Chairman; Courtney M. Sisson, Vice-Chairman; Richard E. Thomas; Jean C. Harper; John L. Haynes, Jr.

Staff Present: R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator; Jennifer L. Clark, Finance Officer

Chairman Sanders reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to conduct a work session for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget. Chairman Sanders then turned the meeting over to Mr. Quicke who reviewed the changes since the previous work session on March 27, 2013. Mr. Quicke pointed out that throughout this budget there are lines that are highlighted to hopefully make it easier to see the changes in expenditures and revenues.

**EXPENDITURES**

Page 5 – The \$31,686 in the Estimated Expenditure line reflects the bonuses that were given in December 2012.

Page 7 – The new \$15,000 expenditure for County Attorney is shown under professional services.

Page 8 – The Orange Shaded box shows an increase of \$16,750 for postage. Throughout the budget, the orange shaded boxes on all the department’s individual budgets reflect the fact that the postage has been moved to the IT budget as a whole.

Page 9 – The \$3,200 decrease in the Commissioner of the Revenue budget for Maintenance Service Contracts has been moved to Page 8 (IT) under Repairs and Maintenance.

Page 13 – The \$5,500 increase is for the Assistant Registrar.

Page 20 and 21 - \$10,000 extra for part time school security; \$15,000 extra is for vehicle equipment and supplies; \$3,000 extra is for K-9 supplies.

Page 23 – EMS Ambulance Billing has always been paid out of the Board of Supervisors – Professional Services line. The higher this number the better since the County pays 5% of the total monthly collections back to the billing office at the Northern Neck Planning District Commission.

Page 33 - \$1,483 increase in Insurance and Line of Duty Act

Page 34 - \$1,228 increase to the Health Department

Page 36 – The DSS budget has been separated into Local Money and State/Federal money. The bottom line is still the same, \$923,275.

Page 38 – Mr. Quicke “tentatively” placed the Family Development requested increase in the budget. The overall increase is \$12,000 of which \$8,000 is paid by the state and \$4,000 is paid locally.

Page 40 – The School Board shows the additional money for the 2% Raise and the Health Insurance change. Mr. Quicke moved the debt service to page 6 of the budget where all other county debt service is shown.

Page 41 – Rappahannock Community College is asking for \$757 in additional operating funds for FY 14. At the budget presentation on March 27<sup>th</sup>, all that was mentioned was the capital funding they were asking for in the amount of \$19,200.

Page 54 – Real Estate Property Tax Revenue Increase of \$83,000; Public Service Corp. Tax revenue increase of \$90,000; Personal Property Tax Revenue Decrease of \$50,000.

Page 55 – Local Sales Tax Increase of \$13,225.

Page 58 (New) – Revenue from property lease in the amount of \$7,627 for the lease of the commerce park farmland.

Page 63 – Expected State Increases in Constitutional Officer funding for the 3% Raises.

Page 64 – State Increase in School Funding - the \$12,380 is the state portion of the Family Development increase.

The budget as presented in this form is showing as balanced at \$22,207,249 or \$659,666 more than approved FY 13. This represents an increase of just under 3%. The increase is due to several factors, mainly employee raises, the insurance transition and a different way of budgeting Federal School Funds.

Mr. Quicke also noted, Dr. Smith told the Board back in the fall that he would budget the Federal funds up front to show a clearer picture as opposed to not budgeting for them and having to appropriate them separately.

Chairman Sanders asked if there were any questions for Mr. Quicke from the Board.

Supervisor Haynes asked if there was any funding budgeted to the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Quicke stated he had a line item in the budget; however, no funds assigned to that line item at this point.

Supervisor Harper stated that she was the Board of Supervisors' representative on the Department of Social Services Board and there was a requested increase of \$28,000 (\$12,000 for the build out expenses and \$16,000 in raises for DSS employees and the Director in excess of 3%). Supervisor Harper brought this to the attention of the Board as to whether the County should keep the \$12,000 in the DSS budget along with the 5% raise for employees/15% raise for the DSS Director.

Supervisor Haynes questioned whether the Board of Supervisors allocates the funding for the department and if they have the power in the literal sense. His thought was with trying to figure out the raises for County and School employees, it would be out of line, especially the 15% and even 5%, to give that much more to one group. He felt it just didn't seem right. Chairman Sanders agreed with Mr. Quicke when he explained to the Board that by reducing the requested Social Services raises from 5 % to 3% for the 11 employees plus the 15% for the Director, this would result in an estimated savings of \$16,000. Paired with the \$12,000 from the earlier discovery by Supervisor Harper, Supervisor Haynes noted that the total amount of \$28,000 could be placed into the Capital Improvement Fund. Supervisor Haynes stated that was good for the schools because that is where a majority of it goes.

There being no further questions at this time, Chairman Sanders recessed the meeting until Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to continue the work session on the budget.

**RECONVENEMENT – APRIL 17, 2013**

Members Present: F. Lee Sanders, Chairman; Courtney M. Sisson, Vice-Chairman; Richard E. Thomas; Jean C. Harper; John L. Haynes, Jr.

Staff Present: R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator; Jennifer L. Clark, Finance Officer

Chairman Sanders reconvened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to continue the budget work session and asked Mr. Quicke to recap the FY 14 budget.

Mr. Quicke reviewed the new expenditures as follows: \$28,000 – Sheriff; \$5,500 – Registrar; \$757 – RCC Operating Fund; \$1,228 – Richmond County Health Department; \$1,483 – Line of Duty Act (LODA)/General Insurance Increase; \$15,000 – County Attorney (Sands Anderson); \$105,547 – 3% County Raises + 1% VRS Raise; \$268,666 – Richmond County Public Schools - (\$166,426 2% Raise + Benefits and \$102,240 – Health Insurance Request). Total new expenditures - \$426,181.

Chairman Sanders asked if the Board members would like to give a consensus on the line by line items recapped by Mr. Quicke.

Supervisor Harper asked what the increase for the Richmond County Health Department was for. Mr. Quicke stated it was the Richmond County share of the salary and benefits approved by the General Assembly.

It was the consensus of the Board (except for Supervisor Sisson) to level fund the Family Development Center.

Supervisor Haynes discussed the pay raises for county employees at 4% with 1% being mandated to Virginia Retirement System. Mr. Quicke explained that by the year 2016, employees must pay 5% toward their retirement through the Virginia Retirement System. In this current budget, the Board elected to phase this in with a 1% increase in salary to offset the retirement deduction.

Supervisor Harper noted that even though the employee was paying 1% toward their retirement it was still a benefit to them when they retired by their salary being at a higher rate. Mr. Quicke stated that each percent equated to \$3,500.

Supervisor Haynes stated that he was inclined to give the employees a 2% raise this year and then maybe looking at another percentage another fiscal year. Chairman Sanders asked for a consensus on what percentage they were comfortable with – Supervisor Sisson – aye; Supervisor Thomas – aye; Chairman Sanders – aye. By consensus, Mr. Quicke was directed to leave the employee raises at 3% and 1% for Virginia Retirement System.

Supervisor Haynes asked Dr. Smith if he had an estimate on the amount of revenue the Schools would save by the nine teachers retiring. Dr. Smith stated that it was hard to know what the revenue savings would be because the goal of the Richmond County Public Schools was to hire the best staff possible and it depends on what step the new teacher is hired at. Also, the excess revenue has been earmarked to the Text Book Adoption; a text book series cost is \$75,000.00 (Grades K-12).

Supervisor Haynes asked Dr. Smith if he could speak on the student teacher ratio. Dr. Smith reviewed the following points of information with the Board.

[Dr. Smith - Talking Points - 4-2013.pdf](#)

Supervisor Harper asked if the instructors who participated in other activities were compensated. Dr. Smith stated that there were some stipends for certain activities.

Supervisor Harper asked how many Core Teachers were retiring this year. Dr. Smith was not certain but said he would find out and let Mrs. Harper know.

Supervisor Thomas asked what the life-span of a text book is. Dr. Smith said it used to be on a 6-year rotation by Virginia Code; however, since the economic crisis, the schedule is not mandated. Dr. Smith did say an 8-year life-span was a reasonable rotation.

By consensus, the Richmond County Public Schools budget was approved as presented. Supervisor Richard Thomas abstained as he and his wife are both employees of the Richmond County Public Schools.

By consensus, the Board recommended placing \$27,332.00 in the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 14.

Mr. Quicke stated the FY 14 budget is \$22,211,193 and requested the Board to authorize him to advertise this budget for public hearing on May 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

***“On a motion made by Courtney M. Sisson, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to advertise the FY 14 budget for public hearing on May 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room.”***

Mr. Quicke reviewed the 2013-2014 proposed tax rates as follows:

Real Estate - .67 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation; Personal Property - \$3.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation; Machinery and Tools - \$.01 cent per \$100 of assessed valuation; Merchants Capital - \$3.50 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The Personal Property Tax Relief Act (Care Tax) rate to be set at 65%. These proposed rates are the same as FY 12-13 tax rates.

***“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Courtney M. Sisson – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye: to advertise the FY 14 Proposed Tax Rates and set the public hearing for May 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room.”***

The Board tentatively set the FY 14 budget adoption for Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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F. Lee Sanders, Chairman

