

RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 12, 2013

MINUTES

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Richmond County, Virginia, held on the 12th day of September 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
Jennifer W. Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue
Douglas A. Bryant, Sheriff
Christopher H. Jett, Director of Information Technology
David Brown, Residency Administrator, VDOT
April Walker, Director, Richmond County Family Development Center
Mabel Lewis, Chairman, Richmond County Electoral Board
Rusty Acree, Citizen, Public Comment

CALL TO ORDER; INVOCATION; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – CHAIRMAN SANDERS

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

RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DR. GREG SMITH SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent, Richmond County Public Schools, gave an update on the school construction project with the following highlights: the sinkhole is still an on-going problem; Completion for Richmond County Elementary School should be in 18 months and Rappahannock High School in 24 months. Student parking seems to be working well. The locality received \$75,992 from the school security grant and will be used for an intercom system, alarm, telecommunications and entrance door locks. Officer Vanlandingham will be the School Resource Officer at the Richmond County Elementary

School and Officer English will be at the Rappahannock High School. Officer Baughan will be at the Northern Neck Technical Center.

A new program, STEM, has been implemented and is partnering with 90 students as well as the JROTC Program, which has 61 participants (20 at RCIS). Richmond County Public Schools is not accredited with the JROTC Program at this time, but the school district has applied. The JROTC were pleased to participate at the football game on Friday evening (09/06/2013).

Supervisor Haynes stated that he is very excited about the JROTC Program and feels this expanded program will be beneficial to the school district.

Chairman Sanders and Supervisor Thomas both stated they were impressed with the Drill Team.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – DAVID BROWN,
RESIDENCY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. David Brown, Residency Administrator, VDOT, reported that the Smith Lane project has been completed.

Routine Maintenance – Street Sweeping completed; Stormwater Basin repairs off Route 3 completed; Site Distance Mowing/Primary & Secondary should be completed by end of October 2013.

Mr. Brown discussed the Revenue Sharing Program Funding and stated that applications were due November 1, 2013.

A meeting was held last week to discuss the pedestrian crosswalk and Mr. Brown stated he would keep the Board updated as to the progress of this project.

A mock automobile accident will be held on Tuesday, September 17th (Rain Date of Wednesday, September 18th) on the Route 3 bypass. A video of the mock accident will be shown state-wide.

Chairman Sanders asked the status of the drainage issue at Emmanuel Church and Mr. Brown stated that VDOT is still working on it.

SHERIFF

Douglas A. Bryant, Sheriff, gave the following report: Dispatched 697 calls for service since August 8th; total calls for 2013 – 5531; Richmond County Jail population for this week – 32; Total delinquent fines and costs collected for the month of August 2013 - \$311.54, making the total collected since April 2007 - \$122,975.86.

Sheriff Bryant stated that the School Resource Officers are at the schools and everything is going well with the program and they have received positive feedback from the program.

The Richmond County Fair went well and was well attended on the first night and there were no problems at the event.

The Farmers Market will be held Saturday, September 14, 2013, and the Sheriff's Office will have representation there.

The Sheriff's Office is also planning ahead for the upcoming Octoberfest on October 5th and the WarsawFest on October 12th. The Sheriff's Office is coordinating with the Town Police and the State Police for these events.

Supervisor Thomas expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's Office for helping with the extra bus traffic off of Walnut Street.

Chairman Sanders expressed appreciation for the help with the Tractor Parade, which passed through Richmond County and the Town of Warsaw.

TREASURER

Mr. R. Morgan Quicke reviewed the Trial Balance Report for the month of August 2013. Mr. Quicke noted that under the Assigned Fund Balance the School Construction Project Fund is \$482,547.36.

The county taxes collected as of the August 2013 Trial Balance Report is comparable to last year. Collections for the 2013 Real Estates Taxes should start coming in toward the end of October-first of November 2013.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

Mrs. Jennifer W. Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue, gave the following report:

Personal Property: Staff is currently working folder by folder to value and assess all personal property items to compile our 2013 Personal Property Book. So far, staff has processed and logged about half of the active taxpayer accounts.

Real Estate: Staff has completed all of the field and desk work for 2013. At this point, the Land Book is ready to be printed (waiting to input all of the figures into the county system so that the Land Book can be generated and printed). Mrs. Delano stated that she is hoping to have all the data handed over to the Treasurer for bills to be sent out by the end of this week. Mrs. Delano stated the data for the mandatory Veterans Tax Relief for 2013 has been completed and that provides \$10,712.72 worth of tax relief to 12

qualified veterans. The figures are also in for the Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled, and 51 taxpayers qualified for some kind of relief totaling \$17,800.11 worth of tax.

Mrs. Delano stated that the letters for the land use valuation should be sent by October 1st and the deadline for applications for change of use is due by November 1, 2013.

Supervisor Thomas stated he had seen a vehicle in the county with Reassessment on it and Mrs. Delano stated that Pearson's Appraisal was helping with a few complicated new construction appraisals.

CHIEF OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – AUGUST 2013 REPORT

109 – 911 calls in Richmond County; 4 – calls for mutual aide to bordering counties for ALS provider; 1 – call to bordering counties for mutual aide; 4 – calls that were handled with assistance from off-duty and VFD members.

The \$25,000 from USDA was deposited last week and is ready to use.

EMS Staff has covered multiple events and standbys during the month of August with no injuries.

The CPR/First Aide classes are continuing.

EMS worked with all county departments that use the radio system and are working out a "Mutual of Understanding" with the school system for them to use one of the secondary channels and install mobile radios in all the buses.

Applications for the full-time position have been received and after interviews next week, the position should be filled by October 1, 2013.

RICHMOND COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – AUGUST 2013 REPORT

Company 1 – 15 total calls (2 EMS assists); Company 2 – 12 total calls (2 EMS assists); Company 3 – 5 total calls (2 EMS assists); 32 total calls (6 EMS assists).

Fundraising has been going well with selling raffle tickets for the lawnmower. RCVFD is still receiving donations from the public and businesses in the county from the Letter Drive.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Sanders opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

Mr. Rusty Acree stated that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Richmond County Public Schools was terrific and stated he felt it was a properly sized school for this size county.

Mr. Acree also stated he personally supported the JROTC Program, which has been implemented in the school system this year.

Mr. Acree also discussed the out of county student policy and recognized the pros and cons of the out of county students. Mr. Acree wondered if federal and state funding covered the total cost of the students.

Mr. Acree encouraged the Board of Supervisors to take a position and provide clarity on the issue because ultimately the Board of Supervisors is responsible for funding school policies.

Mrs. Mabel Lewis, Chairman, Richmond County Electoral Board, discussed the policy of moving polling places.

Mrs. Lewis stated the Electoral Board would like to move the Election 4 Polling Place from the Farnham Fire House to the Richmond County Community Association (former Julia G. Page School) and the Election District 5 from the Newland Church of Christ to the Newland Fire Station.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the RCVFD has rejected the proposal of the use of the Newland Fire Station as a polling place and asked if the Board of Supervisors had any suggestions to solve this issue. Chairman Sanders stated that he and Mr. Quicke were working on a mutual agreement with the RCVFD (Newland Station).

Mrs. Lewis also reminded the Board that starting January 1, 2014, there will be a price increase for the new voting machines and it is mandatory that the new machines be in place for the Presidential Election.

Supervisor Sisson asked if any consideration had been given to locating polling places in the schools because they would be ADA facilities.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the former Julia G. Page School has installed a ramp and handicapped signs and will be ready for the November 5, 2013 election; however, the polling place will have to remain at the Farnham Volunteer Fire Station due to the machines already being programmed and ballots already being printed for this November 5th Election.

REASSESSMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Mr. Quicke provided a draft copy of the Request for Proposal in which he is hopefully able to use for the upcoming reassessment. It is very much the same RFP that was used for the last reassessment, but with updated numbers and dates. It also has an

update about the CAMA system that all companies that respond to the RFP need to be aware of.

Mr. Quicke requested the Board approve the County to move forward with the RFP for the Reassessment and have it advertised for a month with responses being due back Friday, November 1st. The proposals will then be studied and reviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors at the November 14, 2013 meeting so that the process can begin January 1, 2014.

“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 proceed with the Request for Proposals for the Reassessment as proposed.”

RICHMOND COUNTY FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER LEASE

Mr. Quicke reviewed a draft lease that has been put together for the building at 52 Walnut Street Daycare/Family Development Center. Mr. Quicke has highlighted several areas in which he is asking for the Board’s direction as how they would like to proceed. These areas include lease lengths, rent prices, renewals, etc. The lease has been forwarded to the Family Development Center Board for their review as well. Most of the lease is standard and very close to what the County currently has with Mr. Bill Northern for the Extension Office.

Mr. Quicke stated that he has found a lease that was executed previously; however, it has expired. Since the lease has expired, Virginia State Code requires the County to hold a public hearing in order to proceed with the lease. Mr. Quicke suggested extending the agreement of the rental of the building until the public hearing is held at the October meeting and requested the Board approve setting the public hearing for October 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Haynes asked Mrs. April Walker, Director, RCFDC, how many students are on campus at one-time and what the capacity of the building is.

Mrs. Walker stated they have 30 pre-kindergarten students, 15 participants in the after school program and 8 students in the pre-school program. The capacity of the building is 68.

Supervisor Haynes asked if the FDC was using the space vacated by the Head Start Program and Mrs. Walker stated they were not using the space at this time; however, if the space were leased, it would need to be a similar program because of the way the building is designed with the restrooms and all employees have to have a background check done.

“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 to hold a public hearing on October 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in order to proceed with the lease of the Family Development Center.”

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

The Household Hazardous Waste Day will take place at the Indianfield Convenience Center on the afternoon of Saturday, September 14, 2013. This is being handled by the Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District as they have done in the past.

VACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The VACO Conference is Sunday, November 10th through Tuesday, November 12th this year at the Homestead, as usual. Mr. Quicke asked if there were any Board members interested in attending the conference. If so, the registration needs to be sent into VACO and if not, VACO has sent a proxy statement that they ask be completed if no members of the Board of Supervisors will be in attendance and therefore unable to vote at the annual Business Meeting.

Mr. Quicke stated that he plans on attending the VACO conference and Supervisor Haynes also stated that he will be attending for his certification classes. Since Mr. Haynes will be attending, consensus by the Board is to have Supervisor Haynes vote at the Business Meeting on behalf of the County.

RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – OUT OF COUNTY STUDENT POLICY

Supervisor Haynes requested this issue be placed on the Board agenda to be discussed further. One question Mr. Haynes has is what the true cost to the county is for the out of county students. State Funding per child is \$4,724 and the Federal Funding per child is \$949, which brings \$5,673 of revenue into the school system (2013 figures).

Supervisor Haynes stated that this is revenue to the school system; however, local sales tax and use tax is based on census, not student population so that is not included in his calculations. Even though each child brings state and federal dollars to the school system; those dollars are insufficient to pay for the total cost. Mr. Haynes continued by stating that he is not against having out of county children attending Richmond County schools unless it is a financial burden to the taxpayers.

Mr. Haynes stated that it is the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent effectively and that by his calculations, the additional number of children cost the county approximately \$450,000.

Mr. Haynes proposed a cap and a slow phasing-out process of out of county students attending local schools and asked the other Board members for their position on the matter.

Supervisor Harper asked Dr. Smith how many out of county students are attending Richmond County Public Schools this year. Dr. Smith stated there are 119 out of county students attending Richmond County Public Schools. Mrs. Harper stated she was in favor of putting a cap of the number of out of county students accepted each year. Mrs. Harper gave the following example: She taught Sunday School to 4-5 year olds for many years and if there is one child that disturbs the class it is hard to get through to the others and added that she is not saying there is one there now but there could be.

Mrs. Harper gave another example: Approximately two years ago, a family owned property in Richmond County but resided in another county and were told their children could not attend Richmond County Public Schools. Mrs. Harper stated at that time, Dr. Barr stated there were 38 out of county students attending the Richmond County Public Schools and now there are 119 out of county students attending.

Dr. Smith stated that in the last school season, there were 89 out of school students attending along with their siblings. Dr. Smith added that the numbers have been consistent for the last several years.

Supervisor Thomas stated that we have already entered into the season and asked what the goal was in discussing this topic since the county cannot change policy in the middle of the year.

Mr. Thomas asked how many of Richmond County students go to other school districts in the bordering areas. The number of Richmond County students going to other school districts varies and there has to be give and take with the school districts.

Mr. Haynes stated that he was introducing a graduated reduction program and stated that he wanted to address it early in the year so the county will have plenty of time to address it in the next year. Mr. Haynes added that he doesn't like the fundamental premise of tax dollars from Richmond County going to educate the children of other jurisdictions. Mr. Haynes added that he didn't think it was Richmond County's responsibility or fair to the school district and locality.

Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent, stated that from all current grades and courses, out of county children amount to 0.75 children per class and the loss of those students would not result in a reduction of staff or the annual fiscal line item. Federal figures also indicate that without those 119 students, the county educational budget would lose \$587,053. That loss, which could be a burden to taxpayers, would result in an approximate 6-cent tax hike per \$100 for Richmond County residents.

Dr. Smith stated that he is not sending a bill to the locality for the 119 students. The school district does not receive any additional allocations from the county. So, in terms of the revenue stream coming back to the locality for the non-resident students, there is no additional fee to the locality for that. It is revenue coming in solely. So when looked at from that context, it is a very beneficial program.

Dr. Smith noted that approximately 20 students who applied to enter the Richmond County School System were turned down for various reasons as they are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Smith emphasized that his plans are to strictly adhere to a student population threshold without exceeding costs at the schools.

Dr. Smith concluded by stating that while he and Mr. Haynes would agree to disagree, the program is a definite benefit to the school district and locality.

MONTHLY APPROPRIATIONS

“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 following appropriation for the month of October 2013 to the Richmond County Department of Social Services - \$75,000.00.”

“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 following appropriation for the month of October 2013 to the Richmond County Public Schools - \$1,214,300.00.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2013

Supervisor Harper noted one correction from the August 8, 2013 minutes – page 10 – there are two members from District 4 and not four members.

“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; Richard E. Thomas – aye: to approve the Minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting with the correction.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Thomas stated the groundbreaking ceremony of the school project held on Wednesday, September 11th was very nice and he has received nothing but positive comments.

Supervisor Haynes also congratulated Dr. Smith, School Board, and staff for a wonderful groundbreaking ceremony and project.

Chairman Sanders read a letter of appreciation from Chris Jett to the Board of Supervisors and staff for the dish garden sent to him in the loss of his grandmother.

Mr. Quicke gave a brief update on EMS Billing for past due collections. The Ambulance Authority have met and are considering several options and stated it is a work in progress but hopefully in several months they will have a policy in place for collecting past due balances.

Another issue Mr. Quicke brought to the Board's attention is that the Industrial Development Authority met on Wednesday, September 11th to consider several bond issuances for bank qualifying money. The Industrial Development Authority approved both bond requests.

The Board of Supervisors will also need to approve the bond issuing and Mr. Quicke will have that on the agenda in the next couple of months.

Mr. Quicke gave an update on the complaint from Mr. Jack Pettigrew at Whelan's Marina and stated he had spoke to Keith Whelan and he would like some time to work with the community and solve the issues. By consensus, the Board tabled this issue until the October 10, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Quicke told the Board that the mock exercise to be held on Tuesday, September 17th would be good publicity for the county.

Mr. Quicke gave the Board an update on the Rappahannock Cliffs Community Pier Project. Mr. Bowers feels that the 220' pier has already been approved by Richmond County through the R-3 Conditional Re-zoning process, and Mr. Wellford believes that the Community Pier was not approved through that process, and that most certainly the pier was not approved at 220'. Mr. Quicke stated that this case will need the involvement of Sands Anderson before Richmond County can determine if legally the pier was approved through the re-zoning process and if so, was it approved at 220'.

Mr. Quicke stated he has sent Andrew McRoberts many details about the case so that he may become familiar with it. Mr. Quicke will be meeting with Mr. McRoberts in the next week to discuss this case in detail with him so that the Board can feel comfortable with the ruling.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors