

RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

November 13, 2014

MINUTES

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Richmond County, Virginia, held on the 13th day of November 2014, thereof in the Public Meeting Room of the County Office Building.

Present:

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richard E. Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Jean C. Harper, Member
John L. Haynes, Jr., Member
Robert B. Pemberton, Member

Also Present:

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Denise Dunaway, Development Services Manager
Sarah M. Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent, Richmond County Public Schools
Douglas Bryant, Sheriff
David Thomas, RCVFD Assistant Chief
Jennifer Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue
David Brown, Superintendant, VDOT

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN SANDERS

Chairman Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Sanders asked for a moment of silence in memory of Myers France, a former Board member, and led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SARAH M. SCHMIDT

Ms. Schmidt gave a brief presentation to the Board on the progress of the school construction project. Chairman Sanders asked if the construction completion date is still mid January. Ms. Schmidt verified that January 15, 2015 is the completion date.

Ms. Schmidt reminded the Board that she would be giving a tour of the school construction sites at 11:00 a.m. and invited all members to attend. Doug, from Skanska, will also be available to answer any questions.

Ms. Schmidt invited the Board to the Christmas luncheon on December 3, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. at the Vocational Center.

VDOT

Mr. David Brown informed the Board that they are busy brush cutting, ditch cleaning, and repairing pot holes. They are currently preparing for winter by suiting up the snow equipment.

Mr. Brown told the Board that the Mill Pond Road project has been completed.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Bryant reported that the Sheriff's Office has dispatched 837 calls for service (police, fire & rescue) since October 9, 2014. There have been 7182 calls this year.

The Northern Neck Regional Jail population for Richmond County this week is 25.

Sheriff Bryant reported that the total delinquent fines and costs collected for the month of October was \$20.00. \$124,395.81 has been collected since April 2007.

Sheriff Bryant reported that the Rotary Club's Octoberfest was a success on September 20, 2014. The weather was good and there was a large attendance.

The Sheriff's Office informed the Board that the Main Street Halloween Trunk or Treat was a success. There was a large attendance, the weather was good, and there were no major problems.

The Sheriff's Office is coordinating with the State Police and the Town Police in preparation for the upcoming Christmas Parade on December 7, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Just before the parade there will be a jingle job, and the Richmond County Museum Tree of Love Lighting will be held at 5:00 p.m.

On December 10, 2014, Margaret Ransone and the YMCA will host a "Be Proud Be Protected" Public Safety Event at the Vo-Tech Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This is a free event for the community and dinner will be provided by the Northern Neck Hunting Alliance.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Sheriff Bryant presented the following Animal Control report for the month of October: 41 total calls answered; 11 dogs transferred to the pound; 1 adopted dog; and 3 licenses inspected.

Sheriff Bryant reported that the Animal Control Officer assisted the deputies with 50 calls and held 2 public announcements.

Sheriff Bryant reported that Animal Warden Richard Thomas successfully completed a one day training session on dog fighting at Virginia Tech.

Mr. Thomas congratulated Sheriff Bryant for his success on Dancing with the River Stars.

TREASURER

Mr. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator, presented the Trial Balance Report for the month of October 2014.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

Mrs. Delano reported to the Board that the personal property book has been printed and the bills have been mailed. She provided the Board with a summary breakdown between this year and last year's books, which showed an increase by \$95,915.18. The Commissioner's Office will be working on getting data ready to send to the printer to have the personal property forms mailed in January.

Mrs. Delano reported that she has met with Fred Pearson from Pearson's Appraisal Service and Sherri Shafer from M&W Printers. Together they are working on the final draft reassessment notices. Once the new parcel split offs and mailing address changes are made, the notices will be mailed. Mr. Pearson will be scheduling hearings 18 days after the notices are mailed and the Board of Equalization hearings will tentatively be scheduled for the first three weeks in March, 2015.

RICHMOND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr. Quicke gave the following report for the month of October 2014: 124 calls; 1 call for mutual aid into Richmond County; 5 calls for mutual aid to bordering counties; 2 fly-outs; and multiple standbys with little or no issues.

Mr. Quicke reported that the total amount collected during the month of October for recovery billing was \$13,183.00.

RICHMOND COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief David Thomas, RCVFD, presented the following report for October 2014: Company 1: 14 calls (1 EMS assist); Company 2: 6 calls (1 EMS assist); Company 3: 7 calls (1 EMS assists). Total calls for the month of October 2014 – 27 (3 EMS assists).

**NORTHERN NECK PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION, TOURISM DIRECTOR,
LISA HULL**

Lisa Hull provided the members with a chart showing what the Northern Neck Planning District Commission does and how tourism is structured within the district. Ms. Hull gave a power point presentation about the tourism efforts of the Northern Neck Tourism Commission and the planning and creation of the Northern Neck Artisan Trail. ([Power Point Presentation](#))

Mr. Thomas asked Ms. Hull what Richmond County's next step should be to encourage tourism.

Ms. Hull responded that Richmond County funds the Northern Neck Tourism at a reduced level compared to the other counties. It would be great to see Richmond County contribute the same as the other counties in the next budget.

PURCHASE OF COUNTY VEHICLE

Mr. Quicke reminded the members that in October he asked the Board to allow him to purchase a vehicle for county use. Mr. Quicke provided the Board with a spreadsheet outlining the amount of mileage that the county has paid out over the past two fiscal years and so far this year. He stated that the monthly mileage can be anywhere from \$1,500-\$2,000, depending on the month. Mr. Quicke estimates that the purchase of a county car will save \$500 a month or \$6,000 each year. If the county purchased a \$13,000 vehicle, over a five year period, the savings would be approximately \$7,000-\$10,000 after expenses.

Mr. Haynes asked Mr. Quicke if he was able to examine the additional expenses that would be generated, such as maintenance, gas, etc. Mr. Quicke said his figures include maintenance and gas. Mr. Haynes said he is in support of this in principle.

Mr. Thomas asked if a replacement cost is included in this figure. Mr. Quicke said he hopes that a vehicle will last longer than five years, but a replacement cost is not in his figure.

Mr. Haynes said he is not questioning the justification of this expenditure; he is just concerned with dipping into the Capital Improvement Plan with a \$59,000 balance, knowing that there are several other items in that plan that need attention.

Mrs. Harper asked if the School System had a car that could be used until July. Mr. Quicke said he wasn't aware of the school system having an extra vehicle. He said he was also waiting to see if the Sheriff's Office may have one that they will rotate out.

Chairman Sanders asked Mr. Quicke to check with the Sheriff's Office and the School Board and they will discuss this issue next month.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION – RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Quicke said he still needed recommendations from Districts 1, 2, and 3.

Mr. Quicke told the Board that the pay in the past for the Board of Equalization has been \$100 per meeting and he recommended the Board set the compensation at \$100 per meeting per member.

Mr. Quicke stated he has worked with the Commissioner and they have set the following dates for the Board of Equalization hearings: March 9th-13th, March 16th-20th, and March 23rd-27th.

Mr. Thomas recommended Ms. Janice Tatarka from District 1.

Mrs. Harper said she did not have a recommendation from District 2 at this time.

Mr. Hayes recommended Ms. Tracie Beckham from District 3.

Mr. Quicke informed the Board that once he receives the District 2 recommendation, a letter will be sent to the Circuit Court Judge asking him to consider the appointments.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – DISTRICT 5 APPOINTMENT

Chairman Sanders tabled this item until a later date.

NNEC EASEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Quicke told the Board that he has been working with representatives from NNEC to develop the easement requested by them in order to serve their property on the other side of Rt. 3. Mr. Quicke gave each member a draft survey and explained the proposed easement. ([NNEC Proposed Easement](#))

Mr. Quicke explained that a 50 foot easement will be provided along the gravel road for any future expansion to the Commerce Park or the Community Park. NNEC has offset their easement to accommodate for the 50 foot.

Chairman Sanders questioned if the farmer leasing the property has seen the plan. Mr. Quicke said he had talked to the farmer and at this time they are continuing business as usual, but once NNEC starts to dig, they will reimburse what is needed. Parcel 17-33D has been pulled out of the lease for the future parking at the Community Park.

Mr. Thomas questioned the height of the overhead lines and wanted to make sure the fairgrounds has proper access. Mr. Harry Smith, NNEC, said he understood his concern and the height of the lines should be at least 25 feet.

Mrs. Harper asked if a tree or a fence could be placed on the 40' right-a-way. Mr. Smith said a fence could go there but no buildings or trees.

Mr. Smith said he would let Mr. Quicke when the area was staked off so they could schedule a site visit.

CONSIDERATION OF \$125.00 EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS

Mr. Quicke asked the Board to consider giving all full-time employees a one-time bonus of \$125.00. The proposed bonus could come from the Assigned Fund Balance “RCPS CIP.” This fund was created in July for the replacement of the storm pipe and parking lot at the schools. Both of the projects have been completed and the fund has a balance of \$11,124.00

There are currently 71 full time employees and the total cost of the one-time bonus would be approximately \$11,000.00.

Mr. Haynes said that the county is not in a position to have an unexpected expenditure like this and he will not support it.

Mr. Pemberton recommended contributing eight hours to all full-time employee’s annual leave and purchase a county vehicle with the \$11,000.00 from the fund balance.

Mr. Haynes said that the county car item was tabled but he is in favor of the eight hours of additional time off.

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to contribute eight additional hours to all full-time employee’s annual leave.”

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST – UPDATED REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

Mr. Quicke informed the Board that the General Assembly has changed the reporting requirements for the Statement of Economic Interest. Instead of filing once a year, by January 15th, the new rules require that the statement be filed twice a year, with the due dates being December 15th and June 15th. Also, all holdings or liabilities over \$5,000 must be reported.

Mr. Quicke asked each member to file the form with Mercedes Pierce before December 15th.

AQUA WATER RATE INCREASE/REACTIONS

Mr. Quicke told the Board that AQUA Virginia has applied to the SCC to increase water and sewer rates on their customers, as well as petition the SCC to allow them to create a Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Service Charge (WWISC). A WWISC is essentially a Capital Improvement Plan for a private utility in order to charge certain fees to maintain their infrastructure network.

Mr. Quicke said that AQUA Virginia has five water systems and 129 users throughout Richmond County.

Mr. Quicke said the first petition to the SCC is for a rate change and the second is for the creation of the WWISC. So far, the counties of Caroline, Middlesex and Lancaster have gone on record opposing the AQUA petitions to the SCC.

Mr. Quicke wanted to make the Board aware of this situation and said that he has never been contacted by a citizen from Richmond County complaining about the service that they receive from AQUA.

Mr. Pemberton asked when the SCC would make a ruling. Mr. Quicke stated March 24, 2014. That date gives the County time to talk to the users of AQUA.

Mr. John Brown asked what the percentage increase would be. Mr. Quicke responded the rate increase would be 12%.

Mr. Pemberton asked Mr. Brown is he was a user of AQUA. Mr. Brown said he was a user and he felt the current rate was reasonable.

Mr. Quicke said he would contact some of the users and table until the next meeting.

MONTHLY APPROPRIATIONS – RICHMOND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

“On a motion made by Jean C. Harper, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to appropriate \$85,000.00 to the Richmond County Department of Social Services for the month of December 2014.”

MONTHLY APPROPRIATIONS – RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – nay; John L. Haynes, Jr. – nay; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to appropriate \$1,255,743.00 to the Richmond County Public Schools for the month of December 2014.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas thanked the veterans for their service and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Thomas extended sympathy to the families of Myers France and Joseph Gaines.

Mrs. Harper asked Mr. Quicke if there was a report on the budget committee. Mr. Quicke said that a lot of the budget numbers would be determined once the reassessment figures

are complete in December or January. Mr. Quicke said a report should be available the first of the year.

Mr. Haynes stated he agrees with Mr. Quicke about the reassessment figures but feels like there are other things that can be done. Other localities start their budget sessions in January and he would like to proceed next month, not wait until January.

Mr. Haynes informed the members that he had two possible candidates for the Board of Equalization, one being Tracie Beckham, who he recommended, and the other being his wife. Although there are no code provisions that prevent him from nominating his wife, he chose not to because of the public perception or favoritism that would exist. It is the Board's duty as public servants to avoid the appearance of impropriety and he feels this would open them up to criticism.

Mr. Pemberton stated he and Mr. Quicke had recently attended the VACO meeting and found it very informative. One session he attended provided information on how to work with surrounding counties when trying to attract businesses to the area. Another session talked about the importance of all organizations being present during Finance Committee meetings. This would allow everyone involved to reach similar goals. 92 counties were represented at this conference and Richmond County was the only one that did not have a flag present. Mr. Pemberton wants to rectify that. He encouraged all members to attend next year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 9, 2014

“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2014 meeting.”

RECESS

Mr. Sanders recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chairman Sanders reconvened the meeting to hear one public hearing.

Present:

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richard E. Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Jean C. Harper, Member
John L. Haynes, Jr., Member
Robert B. Pemberton, Member

Also Present:

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Joseph Quesenberry, Planner

Pat Weakland
Michael & Diane Self
John Lewis

PUBLIC HEARING

- Gregory R. Allison, 293 King Lane, Farnham, VA 22460, has applied for a special exception in order to operate a private airstrip on property zoned Agricultural, General (A-1). The proposed airstrip is to be located on the aforementioned property at 293 Kings Lane, and is further identified as Parcel 27 on Tax Map 124.

Chairman Sanders tabled the public hearing until the next scheduled meeting due to the applicant not being present.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors