

RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
December 11, 2014

MINUTES

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Richmond County, Virginia, held on the 11th day of December 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
Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent, Richmond County Public Schools
Steve Smith, Captain, Sheriff Office
David Thomas, RCVFD Assistant Chief
Edith Anne Sanders, Treasurer

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN SANDERS

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

RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DR. GREG SMITH

Dr. Greg Smith gave a brief presentation to the Board on the progress of the school construction project. Dr. Smith said that the contractor is still expecting a January 21, 2015 completion date.

Mr. Haynes asked Dr. Smith what is the approximate square footage. Dr. Smith said the project is exactly as it was originally designed with the exception of four classrooms, which were around 700 square ft. each.

Dr. Smith praised the Vo-Tech Center for the excellent lunch that was provided to the County employees on December 3rd.

Dr. Smith told the Board that on Saturday, December 6, 2014, Four Star General Dennis Via gave a civic presentation to the school division and the JROTC cadets.

SHERIFF

Captain Smith reported that the Sheriff's Office has dispatched 617 calls for service (police, fire & rescue) since November 13, 2014. There have been 7799 calls this year.

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

Captain Smith reported that the total delinquent fines and costs collected for the month of October was \$1633.00. \$126,028.81 has been collected since April 2007.

Captain Smith reported that the Christmas Parade held on December 7th was success. The weather was cold and windy but 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 Richmond County Museum Tree of Love Lighting was held on December 7th after the parade in the Circuit Court Building and everything went well.

On December 10, 2014, Margaret Ransone and the YMCA hosted a public safety event at the Northern Neck Technical Center entitled "Be Proud Be Protected". There was training for all ages on internet safety, self defense, and distracted driving. Dinner was provided and the auditorium was full.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Captain Smith presented the following Animal Control report for the month of November: 45 total calls answered; 9 dogs transferred to the pound; 8 cats transferred to the pound; and 2 licenses inspected.

Captain Smith reported that the Animal Control Officer assisted the deputies with 13 calls.

TREASURER

Ms. Edith Anne Sanders, Treasurer, presented the Trial Balance Report for the month of November 2014.

RICHMOND COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief David Thomas, RCVFD, presented the following report for November 2014: Company 1: 12 calls (2 EMS assist); Company 2: 4 calls (1 EMS assist); Company 3: 8 calls (5 EMS assists). Total calls for the month of November 2014 – 24 (8 EMS assists).

Assistant Chief Thomas also reported that the elections for the upcoming year have been held with no major changes.

The Fire Department will hold a Santa Ride again this year on Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 p.m.

PURCHASE OF COUNTY VEHICLE

Mr. Quicke thanked Dr. Smith and the School Board for generously offering the County a vehicle to use.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION – RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Harper recommended Ms. Cecile Thrift to be appointed to the Board of Equalization for District 2.

“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 recommend the following names for appointment to the Board of Equalization: District 1- Ms. Janice Tatarka; District 2 – Ms. Cecile Thrift; District 3 – Ms. Tracie Beckham; District 4 – Mr. Grayson Smith; and District 5 – Ms. Sue France.”

“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., 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 set the pay for the Board of Equalization at \$100.00 per meeting per member.”

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – DISTRICT 5 APPOINTMENT

“On a motion made by F. Lee Sanders, 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 appoint Mr. Paul Welch to the District 5 Industrial Development Authority.”

AQUA WATER RATE INCREASE/REDUCTIONS

Mr. Quicke told the Board that he has been unsuccessful in receiving any feedback from citizens that use AQUA’s services. Mr. Quicke said that he has never received any complaints or comments about this service and recommends the Board take no action on this topic at this time.

FY16 PROPOSED BUDGET SCHEDULE

Mr. Quicke gave the Board a proposed FY15/16 budget adoption schedule.

Mr. Haynes said that some of the deliberations of the budget committee may have some bearing on this schedule and thought it would be a better decision to wait until next month.

Chairman Sanders agreed and asked Mr. Quicke to put this item on the January agenda.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

Mr. Quicke told the Board that he met with Mr. Hayes and Mr. Thomas on November 24th and they talked about the upcoming FY15/16 budget and the future FY17/18 budget. Mr. Quicke said that there were two big factors that could change things for the good or the bad, the Governor's budget recommendations and the reassessment numbers. Mr. Quicke said he would put together a presentation for January for the Board or he would be willing to meet with the members individually.

Mr. Haynes wanted the members to know that the reason for having a two-person committee is to keep from going through advertisements of a meeting, but the purpose of the committee is for the whole Board to share their thoughts and ideas equally. Mr. Haynes suggested having a non-committee member attend some of the sessions in place of a member.

Mr. Haynes told the Mr. Quicke that he appreciates the time he has put into projecting future expenses.

Mr. Thomas recommended Mr. Haynes be in attendance at each budget committee session and he encouraged other members to replace him at future sessions to present their ideas.

STATE AID TO LOCALITIES – FY15 FUNDING REDUCTIONS

Mr. Quicke informed the Board that the state is dealing with 2.4 billion budget shortfall over the FY15 and FY16 years. In reaction to that, the state has implemented the "Aid to Locality Reduction." Mr. Quicke provided the members with a spread sheet showing the agencies and the reductions. The impact to Richmond County is \$19,808.00 which will need to be returned to the State. Mr. Quicke said the county must submit a statement by January 1, 2015 explaining how the County intends to return the share back to the State. Mr. Quicke recommended the Board elect to take funding reductions over the next six months rather than receiving all funds and then having to write the State a check at the end of the year in the amount of \$19,808.00.

Mr. Quicke questioned how to absorb the \$19,808.00. He recommended absorbing the amount through the General Fund Balance and revisit in June, instead of cutting the departments.

Mr. Haynes said most of the departments were cut last budget and he doesn't see an alternative but to absorb it.

Mr. Quicke said that during the FY15 reduction, K12 education was not hit.

Mr. Quicke asked the Board to allow him to work with the State in paying this money back.

All members agreed to allow Mr. Quicke to work with the State to pay back the reduction amount of \$19,808.00.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – SPENDING UPDATE

Spending update as of December 4, 2014:

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL AMOUNT</u>	<u>SPENT AMOUNT</u>	<u>AVAILABLE</u>
QSCB	\$6,005,207	\$5,998,988	\$6,219
VPSA	\$9,003,529	\$5,044,952	\$3,958,577
LOCAL	\$1,176,000	\$1,136,123	\$39,877

Mr. Haynes asked Mr. Quicke if there were more current figures available from the VPSA. Mr. Quicke said this was the figure as of December 4, 2014 but he could try and get a figure as of today after the meeting. Mr. Haynes told Mr. Quicke that the figure was fairly current and if there was a problem, he was sure the school would advise.

PROPOSED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT/EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL FEE CHANGES

Mr. Quicke informed the Board that with the recent changes to the Stormwater and Erosion and Sediment Control regulations and review guidelines, Mr. English has recommended that certain fees be amended to reflect the changes in legislation and regulations. Mr. English provided the members with a worksheet and spreadsheet to show the changes. Mr. Quicke said that these changes are very technical and difficult to understand.

Mr. English said the Planning Commission unanimously approved the changes. Mr. Haynes asked if the money generated would go up or down. Mr. English said it would depend on the size of the project. Mr. Haynes asked if the overall fee for the overall project, including state and local, would increase. Mr. English said there could be a significant increase in the fees, the bigger the project, the higher the fees. Mr. English told the Board that the major reason for the fee change is to eliminate double charging.

Mr. Thomas asked how this would affect existing projects. Mr. English said there is a time limit with the state and county permit; the longer the project goes on, the more enforcement is required. This fee line was initiated to allow people to be able to continue their permits. There will be minimal impact to existing permits.

Mr. Thomas asked if January 1st would be the date to implement the fee changes. Mr. English said the sooner the better.

Mr. Quicke asked if there were any existing projects that this would affect. Mr. English said that the Dollar General project may be affected by this new fee schedule and if so, the county would need to issue a refund.

“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 amend the current fee schedule to reflect changes to Stormwater and Erosion and Sediment Control regulation and review guidelines effective January 1, 2015.”

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 January 2015.”

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 January 2015.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2014

“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., 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 November 13, 2014 meeting.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Mrs. Harper wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Haynes asked Mr. Quicke how much additional revenue is generated from the vehicle tax. Mr. Quicke said the vehicle tax brings an additional \$20,000. Mr. Haynes said he was asked by a citizen how much of the additional vehicle tax revenue goes to the Newland Fire Department. Chairman Sanders verified that the additional revenue generated by the vehicle tax goes to the Fire Department General Fund and is distributed as needed between the three departments.

Mr. Pemberton attended the JROTC event and the “Be Proud Be Protected” public safety event at the Vo-Tech Center.

Mr. Pemberton asked Mr. Quicke to include in the January 2015 meeting agenda discussion regarding the collection of real estate taxes twice a year.

Mr. Pemberton wished everyone a good Christmas.

Chairman Sanders wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Quicke reminded the Board that the Statements of Economic Interest forms are due by December 15, 2014.

Mr. Quicke invited the Board to attend the Employees Christmas Luncheon on December 17th at noon in the Public Meeting Room.

Mr. Quicke told the Board that Essex County has invited everyone to their annual Dutch Treat Legislative Reception to be held on January 7, 2015 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Lowery's. Mr. Quicke asked the Board to RSVP to him by January 6th.

Mr. Quicke told the Board about five (5) public hearings that he would like to schedule for January 8, 2015.

“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 advertise a public hearing on January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to hear the following: Proposed Amendment to the Richmond County Zoning Ordinance, Section 2-2-2A “Special Exception Uses” item 22 “Limited food service and sales permitted as an accessory use.”; to receive public comment on the Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan; a Special Exception request by Gregory Allison for an airstrip; a polling location change; and an amendment to the Tax Relief for the Elderly/Disabled Ordinance.”

CLOSED SESSION

“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), salary or other compensation of specific employees.”

CERTIFICATION MOTION AFTER RECONVENING IN PUBLIC SESSION

“On a motion made by John L. Haynes, Jr., the Board voted by roll call: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Jean C. Harper – aye; John L. Haynes, Jr. – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: that the Board certifies that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or 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.”

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

There was no action taken by the Board of Supervisors resulting from the closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

After no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors