RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 14, 2016

MINUTES

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Richmond County, Virginia, held on the 14th day of January, 2016, thereof in the Public Meeting Room of the County Office Building.

Present:
F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richard E. Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Robert B. Pemberton, Member
J. David Parr, Member
William C. Herbert, II, Member

Also Present:
R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Denise Dunaway, Development Services Manager
Cheryl B. Pierson, Clerk of the Circuit Court
Jennifer Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue
Kristie S. Brann, Treasurer
Stephan B. Smith, Sheriff
Trevor Johnson, Captain, Sheriff’s Office
Rob Smith, Attorney, Fones Cliffs Development
Approximately 10 others

SWARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED AND RE-ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Cheryl B. Pierson, Clerk of the Circuit Court, swore in the newly elected and re-elected Board Members and Constitutional Officers.

CALL TO ORDER

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Quicke opened the floor for nominations for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the calendar year 2016.

"On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders - abstain, Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to elect F. Lee Sanders as Chairman of the Richmond County Board of Supervisors for the calendar year 2016."
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Chairman Sanders gave the invocation and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sanders asked for nominations for the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the calendar year 2016.

"On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to elect Richard E. Thomas as Vice-Chairman of the Richmond County Board of Supervisors for the calendar year 2016."

Chairman Sanders asked for a motion to re-adopt the Richmond County Board of Supervisors by-laws and public hearing procedures.

"On a motion made by William C. Herbert, II, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to re-adopt the by-laws and rules of order of the Richmond County Board of Supervisors for the calendar year 2016."

"On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to set the calendar year 2016 Board of Supervisors meetings for the 2nd Thursday of each month, with the meeting to begin at 9:00 a.m. and with all advertised public hearings to be held at 7:00 p.m. on the same day; hold all meetings in the Richmond County Public Meeting Room, with the alternate site to be the General District Courtroom should the Public Meeting Room be unavailable for any reason. In the case of inclement weather or other weather emergencies or holidays that prohibit holding the meeting on the regular scheduled day, the Board meeting is automatically rescheduled to the Wednesday after the 2nd Thursday."

Chairman Sanders asked for a motion to authorize signatures on county checks.

"On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to authorize the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and County Administrator as authorized signatures on County checks."

APPOINTMENTS

The Board agreed to make no changes to the Northern Neck Planning District Commission appointments for calendar year 2016. Mr. Quicke stated that members include Chairman Sanders, Richard Thomas, Robert Pemberton, and one citizen member, Richard Gouldin.

The consensus of the Board was that F. Lee Sanders continues to serve on the Northern Neck Planning District Commission Executive Committee with Richard E. Thomas as the alternate member.
“On a motion made by William C. Herbert, II, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye: to appoint Robert B. Pemberton to the Richmond County Department of Social Services Board.”

The consensus of the Board was that F. Lee Sanders continues to serve as a member on the Northern Neck Regional Jail Board.

The consensus of the Board was that Robert B. Pemberton continues to serve as a member of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission.


The consensus of the Board was that F. Lee Sanders remain the Director of the Richmond County Emergency Services.

The consensus of the Board was that R. Morgan Quicke continues to serve as the Richmond County Emergency Services Deputy Director.

The consensus of the Board was that Greg A. Baker continues to serve as the Richmond County Emergency Services Coordinator.

The consensus of the Board was that R. Morgan Quicke continues to serve as the Richmond County Emergency Services Deputy Coordinator.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Smith was pleased to introduce Trevor Johnson to the Board. He said that Mr. Johnson has been hired as the Captain of the Sheriff’s Office.

Sheriff Smith reported that his office dispatched 644 calls for service during the month of December, bringing the total to 8623 for the year, and the jail population for Richmond County this week is 18.

The Sheriff said that the K-9 officers were recently interviewed and will be featured in the March issue of the House and Home magazine.

Sheriff Smith said that his office was given over 100 toys from a surplus from Lancaster County’s toy drive. He reported that they gave out all of the toys to needy families and charitable organizations.
The Sheriff informed the Board that they have identified several individuals from New York and other states that are breaking into old abandoned houses. He said that warrants are on file in his office for these individuals.

The Sheriff reported that they are assisting the Game and Inland Fisheries with a fatal hunting accident that occurred on January 2, 2016.

Sheriff Smith gave the following animal control report: 1 wildlife call, 26 dog calls, 1 farm livestock call, 11 dogs transferred to the pound, 32 deputy calls, and 1 traffic summons.

Chairman Sanders asked the Sheriff to explain the Animal Control position to the Board. Sheriff Smith explained that the Animal Control Officer is a sworn law enforcement officer and has the same powers are the road deputies.

Mr. Thomas said that he has received many positive comments regarding the past toy drive that the Sheriff’s Office participated in. Sheriff Smith said that he hopes to continue this program in the years to come.

TREASURER

Kristie Brann, Treasurer, presented the Trial Balance Report for the month of December, 2015.

Mr. Herbert questioned the uncollected tax amount. Mrs. Brann explained that in the collection process, the number comes down rather quickly. Mr. Herbert asked the Treasurer if the past years delinquent taxes are in the land sale. Mrs. Brann said that they are concentrating on the last three years.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

Jennifer Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue, reported that the personal property forms will soon be mailed and are due back by May 1st in order to avoid the penalty. Mrs. Delano said that her office has received the 2015 state income tax forms and that her office will be happy to assist the public with any tax questions.

PLANNING & ZONING

Mr. Quicke told the Board that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 11, 2016 regarding the FY17-21 Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Quicke said that the Planning Commission recommended approval and he asked the Board for a motion to hold a public hearing on February 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the FY17-21 Capital Improvement Plan.
“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to schedule a public hearing on February 11, 2016 to receive public comment on the FY2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan.”

Mr. Quicke reminded the Board that a public hearing will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. regarding the Solar Power Ordinance.

Mr. Quicke said that he has advertised for the vacant Planner position and applications are due by February 5, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rob Smith updated the Board about the progress of the Fones Cliffs Development project. Mr. Smith said that since the approval in November, they have received proposals for the engineering, have completed a boundary survey, and have set panels on survey markers for prepare for an aerial shoot of the property, which is scheduled for February 1, 2016. Mr. Smith said that Mr. Howeth has started the wetlands delineations and is working with VMRC to establish the mean low water mark.

Mr. Smith said he is excited about the attention they are receiving about the property.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Sanders said he does not have recommendation for the District 5 Board of Zoning Appeals appointment at this time.

Mr. Parr provided the Board with two names for the vacant Planning Commission appointments.

“On a motion made by J. David Parr, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to appoint Harry F. Smith, Jr. and Walter S. Ball to the Richmond County Planning Commission, District 2, with terms expiring on December 31, 2019.”

Mr. Herbert said that he contacted Rusty Brown and he has agreed to serve another term on the Industrial Development Authority as the District 3 representative. Mr. Brown’s term will expire on December 31, 2019.

Mr. Parr provided the Board with a District 2 appointment to the Industrial Development Authority.

“On a motion made by J. David Parr, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to appoint Meredith M. Smith to the Industrial Development Authority, District 2, with a term expiring December 31, 2019.”
USDA POLICE CAR GRANT – NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Mr. Quicke informed the Board that he has applied to the USDA for a FY17 Police Car Grant. Mr. Quicke explained this process to the new Board members, stating that this grant allows us to buy one car through a USDA issued loan and receive the other through grant funds. Mr. Quicke said that this program has been very successful for Richmond County over the past two years, and he hopes that Richmond County will be able to utilize it for a third year. Mr. Quicke stated that as part of the grant process, official notification has to be given to the Governing Body, but no action is necessary.

TRI-RIVERS ASAP BOARD – RESIGNATION OF SHERIFF SMITH

Mr. Quicke provided the Board with a copy of the resignation letter from Sheriff Smith to the Tri-Rivers ASAP Board. Mr. Quicke explained that it appears as though there have been many recent resignations from this Commission due to some allegations that have been made again the Board by the State. Mr. Quicke said he is willing to be appointed to this Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of it and he reminded the Board that the County does not contribute financially to the Tri-Rivers ASAP Board. Sheriff Smith briefed the Board about his first meeting, which included an FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) Attorney in attendance.

"On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to appoint Morgan Quicke to the Tri-Rivers ASAP Board."

VIRGINIA DOG HUNTING RESOLUTION – RE-ADOPTION OF 2008 RESOLUTION

Mr. Quicke said that Mr. Pemberton and Chairman Sanders requested that the 2008 Resolution be re-adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Quicke explained that the re-introduction of this resolution is due to talk throughout the State that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is discussing the long term plans of hunting with dogs and in the past have introduced bills into the Virginia General Assembly, which would severely limit the rights of those hunting with dogs. He said that with this Resolution, Richmond County would be proactive in protecting the rights of those who choose to lawfully hunt with dogs.

"On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to re-adopt the following resolution:"

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HUNTING WITH DOGS

WHEREAS, Richmond County has a tradition of hunting with dogs and specifically hounds; and
WHEREAS, The Richmond County tradition of hunting with dogs provides economic benefit to the county and local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County tradition of hunting with dogs significantly contributes to the public safety by controlling excess wildlife populations that have the potential to increase automotive collisions, crop and other property damage, and disease; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County tradition of hunting with dogs, especially hounds, is practiced on properties throughout Richmond County and surrounding areas and is considered a valid wildlife resource management tool; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County tradition of hunting with dogs is a family oriented experience that is in many cases passed down through generations and provides an opportunity to teach young hunters to be responsible stewards and good citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Supervisors supports our tradition of hunting with dogs, especially hounds, and is in favor of any studies or actions on the part of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Tech and other state universities to provide a better understanding of our hunting tradition and to support a positive relationship between hunters, landowners and the public in general; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize the value of the hunting community that follows the intent and spirit of hunting laws and asks that the hunting community reach out to all to build and maintain positive relationships with landowners and the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Supervisors in support of our tradition of hunting with dogs, especially hounds, hereby calls on the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to increase communications with hunters, hunting organizations and the general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Richmond County Board of Supervisors calls on the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to enhance law enforcement of existing laws and modify such laws where it can be demonstratively proven that such change is warranted.

FY17 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Quicke gave a power point presentation regarding the FY17 budget. (Attachment 1)

FY17 PROPOSED BUDGET SCHEDULE

Mr. Quicke asked the Board to review the proposed budget schedule. Chairman Sanders reminded the members that the budget schedule is very flexible.
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FARNHAM CREEK BOAT LANDING – UPDATE

Mr. Quicke said that the grand opening at the Farnham Creek Boat Landing had to be postponed due to the DGIF inspection being rescheduled. He said that the ramp looks great. Chairman Sanders said once they have approval from the State, the grand opening ceremony will be scheduled.

LITTLE FLORIDA – ZONING CASE UPDATE

Mr. Quicke reported that the County won the court case. Mr. Quicke provided the Board with a copy of the letter that he received from Judge Taliaferro. He reminded the Board that the property owners have 30 days to file an appeal.

MONTHLY APPROPRIATIONS – RICHMOND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; to appropriate $85,000.00 to the Richmond County Department of Social Services for the month of February 2016.”

MONTHLY APPROPRIATIONS – RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to appropriate $1,295,860.00 to the Richmond County School Board for the month of February 2016.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2015

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr - aye: to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2015 meeting.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Sanders welcomed Mr. Parr and Mr. Herbert to the Board and wished them well during the next four years. He thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Franklin from Northern Neck Electric for marking the power lines in front of the Newland Fire House.

Mr. Thomas wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed the two new Board members.

Mr. Parr thanked the District 2 voters and said he looks forward to working with the other members over the next four years.
Mr. Herbert thanked everyone for welcoming them to the Board and said he looks forward to working for the citizens of Richmond County.

Mr. Quicke said he received a letter from the Peninsula Emergency Medical Services Council regarding management changes and a request to have a one representative and one alternate representative from each County. Mr. Quicke said that he and Chief Baker are willing to serve on this council.

"On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; to appoint Chief Greg Baker to the Peninsula Emergency Medical Services Council and R. Morgan Quicke as the alternate member."

Mr. Quicke said that he received an email from Mr. Reams with the Richmond County Public Library inviting the Board to the Library for a luncheon and presentation. The Board agreed to attend the Library luncheon and presentation after the Board meeting on February 11, 2016.

RECESS

Chairman Sanders recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m. to hear public comments regarding the proposed Solar Panel Ordinance.

RECONVEYNE MEETING – 7:00 P.M. – PUBLIC HEARING

Present:

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richard E. Thomas, Vice-Chairman
Robert B. Pemberton, Member
William C. Herbert, II, Member
J. David Parr, Member

Also Present:

R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Harry Smith
Vanelia Gallagher

PUBLIC HEARING

- To receive public comment on a proposed new Solar Ordinance, which would permit the placement and installation of solar panel facilities to be constructed in A-1 (Agriculture General) zoned districts in Richmond County, with a granted special exception and a minimum size of twenty (20) acres.
Mr. Quicke read the notice of public hearing and briefly explained the proposed ordinance to the Board. Mr. Quicke said that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance at their January 4, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Thomas questioned the minimum size of 20 acres and the stormwater management. He asked what they can do to attract the businesses to Richmond County. Mr. Quicke said that the 20 acres can be taking out of the ordinance and the Board can control the acreage requirement through the special exception process. Mr. Quicke explained that in his opinion, neighbors will not want to see the panels; therefore, they need to be in an isolated area. Mr. Quicke said that the structures are not permanent and he didn’t think there would be any stormwater management practices required, but that is a question for DEQ.

Harry Smith explained his understanding of the solar panel placement and said that mostly large companies would be making a request for solar panels and they would be looking at more than 20 acres.

Mr. Thomas said he doesn’t feel that the acreage should be regulated.

Mr. Parr said that there must be a reason to have the 20 acre minimum. Mr. Quicke said that it may have been taken from an adjacent county’s ordinance.

Mr. Herbert asked if there were any future plans to market this. Mr. Quicke said that there are two companies that are aware that Richmond County is proposing this ordinance. He stated that there is a big push statewide for small businesses to have these projects ready to go by December 2016 in order to receive tax credits. Mr. Pemberton said that he believes the tax credit is for smaller power plants. Mr. Quicke said it is for the smaller 100 acres sites.

Mr. Quicke said that he intends to contact the two companies that have shown interest once the ordinance is adopted.

Mr. Quicke reminded the Board that they can have an internal rule for the acreage requirement and the 20 acres can be taken out of the ordinance.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor for public comment.

Chairman Sanders closed the public hearing.

"On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; to adopt the Solar Ordinance, as amended."

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Sanders recommended appointing Judy Sydnor to the Richmond County Board of Zoning Appeals, District 5. Mr. Quicke said he would submit her name to the Judge.
Chairman Sanders asked the Board to think about holding a special called organizational meeting for next year’s appointments before the regular January Board meeting, either at the end of December or earlier in January. Chairman Sanders said he feels that the process that they are currently following should be changed.

Mr. Quicke asked the Board to consider appointing Libbie Trible to the Community Criminal Justice Board. He said that her appointment would replace Wayne Emery.

“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; to appoint Libbie Trible to the Community Criminal Justice Board.”

Mr. Thomas said that there is a dead pine tree hanging over the road near Welch’s Funeral Home on Rt. 360. Mr. Quicke said he would report this to VDOT.

**ADJOURNMENT**

After no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors
Richmond County
FY17 Budget Overview

Outline

I. Current FY16 Budget – How Are We Doing?
II. FY17 Budget Challenges
III. Revenue Trends and Debt Service Analysis
IV. FY17 Budget Positives
V. FY17 Budget Priorities

Current FY16 Budget...How Are We Doing?

- Expenses – Expenses through December 31, 2015 (50% of year), are tracking well. All Budgets are around the 50% mark and barring an unforeseen circumstance, we should continue that way over the second half of the year.

- Revenues – Revenues are also trending well through the first half of the year and Local Tax collections are at consistent levels as in previous years.

FY17 Budget Challenges

- Flat Local Revenues
  - Local Sales Tax - $1,250,000 +/-$0
  - Personal Property Tax $1,526,000 +/-$0
  - Real Estate Tax - $5,210,000 +/-$0
  - Fines, Fees, Permits, Etc...

- Loss of $124,800 in Revenue from Northumberland County
  - Repayment – Northern Neck Regional Jail

- Employee Morale
  - Health Insurance Continues to Rise...
  - ...mixed with fewer benefit plans
  - Lack of Cost of Living Raises (FY15 and FY16)
  - Salaries that severely trail the regional averages

FY17 Budget Challenges

- Capital Projects/Maintenance Funding
  - Not being adequately funded for future projects, repairs and improvements

- Budget Cuts
  - Departments over the past few years have been cut to unattainable levels
  - Can not afford continued cuts

- Unknown Variable Costs
  - Expenses such as Comprehensive Services Act, At-Risk Youth, Department of Social Services, Juvenile Detention Facilities...
  - We can budget for these costs and work to manage them as best as possible, but the bottom line is we are required to fund them at whatever the costs may be.

FY17 Budget Challenges

- Revenues stable and/or decreasing and Expenditures increasing...

- Lack and inability to invest in ourselves for Economic Development

- Continuation of the $3,000,000 annual Revenue Anticipation Note
Issue with NNRJ and Why it is Important to Begin Planning for Yearly Funding

- Since the creation of the Northern Neck Regional Jail in the 90's, the three counties that own the jail have never had to contribute annual operational funds to the jail.

- Why? - Federal Inmate population
  - In the good years, the NNRJ routinely housed between 225-300 Federal Inmates per day.
  - Our current Average Daily Population (ADP) now hovers around 175 Federal Inmates per day.

Issue with NNRJ and Why it is Important to Begin Planning for Yearly Funding

- Why? - Prosecution of crimes
  - Our main contract was with the U.S. Marshalls and the Eastern District of Virginia, which used to carry an ADP of about 2,000 inmates per day.
  - Current 2015-2016 numbers show that population to be 600.

- There are a handful of local regional jails (6) that contract with the Eastern District
  - Meaning we used to spread a big pie to all of the jails, and now we spread a little pie

Issue with NNRJ and Why it is Important to Begin Planning for Yearly Funding

- So what does this mean?

- This means that on average, Richmond County houses roughly 30 inmates per day in the NNRJ.
  - $20/day Per diem = 30(ADP)*20(Per diem)*365 = $219,000
  - $30/day Per diem = $328,500
  - $40/day per diem = $438,000
  - $50/day per diem = $547,500

Issue with NNRJ and Why it is Important to Begin Planning for Yearly Funding

- The bottom line: We have been very fortunate for many years to ride this wave. We are the ONLY regional jail in the Commonwealth with a $0 cost to the localities annually.

- We must begin preparing for this burden to be laid upon us at some time in the near future and as soon as 2019 or 2020.

Real Estate Tax Collection Projections

![Real Estate Tax Collection Chart]

- RE Tax Collection
Delinquent Prior Year Taxes as of December 31

- 2011 Taxes as of December 31, 2012 - $187,974
- 2012 Taxes as of December 31, 2013 - $226,912
- 2013 Taxes as of December 31, 2014 - $216,590
- 2014 Taxes as of December 31, 2015 - $177,831
  * **Just the prior year delinquent, not the prior 5 in total**

FY17 Budget Positives

- State Funding for Education
  - This year’s top priority of both the Governor and General Assembly is more state dollars towards education.
  - At this time, the impact is unknown, but any additional state funding towards education is a positive that will take much of the financial burden off of the localities.
  - Education funding was severely cut at the state level from 2008-2010, of which the localities were forced to contribute more local dollars into education to make up for those losses.
  - This will be the first substantial investment into K-12 education since the recession.

- Drop in Local Composite Index (LCI)
  - Our LCI for the 2016-2018 Biennium has dropped from 335.4 to 318.0
  - Our LCI dropped from 335.9 to 336.4 in the 2014-2016 Biennium, which resulted in an additional $270,000 from the State for Education.
  - This drop is not as significant, but increased State revenue is expected.

FY17 Budget Positives

- Lowering of VRS Employer Rate from 10.84% to 9.14%
  - This is the rate in which Richmond County pays into VRS on behalf of the employee. The employee also contributes an additional 5% from their paycheck.
  - This will be year 5/5 of implementing the 1% raise and 1% employee contribution for our Plan 1 employees (Employees since July 1, 2012).

- Recent changes to Land Use values and PPTRA percentages
  - Last year’s changes to both the PPTRA Rate and Land Use Values were very important to the County. Both of these programs are becoming a money loser for the County, but the changes were well timed, and should prevent further revenue losses.
  - Both programs need to be monitored and managed overtime to ensure their survival.

FY17 Proposed Budget Adoption Schedule

- Monday, December 7, 2015 - Budget Request Letters submitted to Departments
- Monday, January 11, 2016 - Planning Commission Public Hearing on FY17-18 Capital Improvement Plan
- Friday, January 29, 2016 - Department Budget Requests due to County Administrator
- Thursday, February 11, 2016 - Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on FY17-18 Capital Improvement Plan
- Friday, February 26, 2016 - FY17 Budget Requests given to Board of Supervisors
- Thursday, March 10, 2016 - FY17 Budget Presentation from Departments (1:00 – 5:00 PM)
- Monday, March 21, 2016 - FY17 Budget Worksession – County Administrator’s Recommended Budget Presentation (1:00 PM)
- Monday, March 28, 2016 - FY17 Budget Worksession (6:00 PM)
- Thursday, April 14, 2016 - FY17 Budget Worksession (1:00 or 6:00 PM)
- Thursday, April 21, 2016 - FY17 Budget Public Hearing (1:00 PM)
- Thursday, May 12, 2016 - FY17 Budget Adoption (5:00 PM)

County Administrator’s FY17 Budget Priorities

- Employee Morale
- Fund Balance Position
- Capital Improvement Plan Funding
- Preparation for future funding of NNRJ