RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
September 14, 2017

MINUTES

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors for Richmond County, Virginia, held on the 14th day of September, 2017, 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
William C. Herbert, II, Member
J. David Parr, Member

Also Present:
R. Morgan Quicke, County Administrator
Hope D. Mothershead, Administrative Assistant
Kristie S. Brann, Treasurer
Barry Sanders, Director of Code Administration
Jennifer Delano, Commissioner of the Revenue
Stephan Smith, Sheriff
Mitchell Paulette, Captain of Emergency Services
Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent
Sarah Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent
John Brown, Chairman, School Board
Vanessa Livingstone, Social Services
Harry Smith
John Haynes
Shari Faina
Libby Tribe, Commonwealth Attorney
Auriel Walker
John Hutt
Approximately 5 others

CALL TO ORDER

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

RICHMOND COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Sarah Schmidt addressed the Board with an update that the first couple weeks of school went well and the fall sports teams were competitive. Dr. Schmidt invited everyone to attend the school board meeting on October 11th being held in the newly renovated Mackey Thompson
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Center (old Intermediate School). Dr. Schmidt also encouraged everyone to view the newly released accreditation information on the DOE website.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Smith presented the following report for the month of August 2017: 847 calls for service; served 370 civil papers; 46 arrests with 79 warrants served; and served 91 traffic summonses. The jail population for the week in Richmond County was 29. Animal Control: 30 calls for service, 1 dog transferred to Westmoreland Animal Shelter.

Sheriff Smith’s report included that the department is working with the Town police planning upcoming events for September and October, including the NNEC Touch-A-Truck, Museum Event, Dinner on Main and WarsawFest.

TREASURER

Kristie Brann, Treasurer, presented the Trial Balance Report for the month of August, 2017. Mrs. Brann advised the Board that the 2017 Real Estate tax bills, totaling $5,608,948.64, have been mailed.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

Jennifer Delano, Commissioner, presented the statistics from the taxable 2017 real estate book, with an increase from the 2016 levy of $26,983.82. Mrs. Delano added that the Land Use validation letters will be due November 1, 2017.

PLANNING/ZONING/LAND USE

Barry Sanders advised the Board that 18 new projects totaling $970,697.00 in improvements began in August, 2017. Mr. Sanders added that the Food Lion renovations were near completion and the McDonald’s renovations were underway. He also noted that China Inn had submitted plans for construction. Mr. Sanders notified the Board that the Planning Commission held a meeting on September 11, 2017 for further discussion of the fracking topic. The planning commission will hold a public hearing on October 10, 2017. Mr. Sanders continued to note that the Board of Zoning Appeals was scheduled for a meeting on September 26, 2017.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mitch Paulette presented the following EMS report for the month of August: 108 calls in Richmond County; 2 calls for mutual aide into Richmond County; 1 call for mutual aide to bordering counties and 4 fly outs. Mr. Paulette advised the Board of their participation each night at the Richmond County Fair, handing out information to citizens. The EMS department also participated in the vehicle extrication demonstration at the fair together with the Volunteer Fire Department.
Mr. Quicke noted that Chief Baker and Captain Paulette have been working on the program criteria for the newly established auxiliary function of the Department of Emergency Services. Captain Paulette presented the proposed Standard Operating Procedure as follows:

A. Purpose

To outline the standard operating procedures for the Auxiliary EMS Division of Richmond County Department of Emergency Services.

B. Procedures

1. All members will be required to give a minimum of 24 hours of availability per month. A minimum of 8 hours will be given for each shift. Time for special events and standbys will be counted towards the 24 hours.

2. There will be no response from home from any junior auxiliary member, full members need approval from the on-duty shift supervisor before responding to a call from home.

3. If a full member is needed to respond from home, they will adhere to all traffic laws and drive with due regard for safety.

4. No use of P.O.V. dash or grille lights will be authorized.

5. Junior members can run as a third with the on-duty crews and must be off duty by 2200. Junior members can also run as a third to help staffing during special events and standbys.

6. Full members may run with the on-duty crews or if another full member is scheduled for duty that day, may assist in staffing a third truck. Full members may also staff a truck for special events and standbys.

7. Full members are able to staff a second truck at night or co-staff an on-call truck with the career staff from 1900-0700. Auxiliary members wishing to staff any night shifts will be required to report for duty to Rescue Station 1 by 1900.

8. All members will be held to the same standards as the career staff and will follow all policies and procedures set forth by Richmond County Department of Emergency Services

9. NO FREELANCING OF CALLS WILL BE TOLERATED.

Captain Paulette presented the proposed Standard Operating Guideline as follows:

A. Purpose

To outline and define the requirements for the Auxiliary EMS Division of Richmond County Department of Emergency Services.
B. Guidelines

1. All applicants must be at least 16 years of age.

2. Minimum certification requirements are: EMT-Basic, EVOC Class 2 or higher, Haz-mat Awareness, ICS 100, 200, 700, 800, CPR for Healthcare Providers.

3. For interested parties who do not hold a certification, a yearly certification course will be held with all needed requirements taught. The course will be free of charge but will require a 2 year program participation contract.

4. Members will be required to give a minimum of 24 hours of availability per month. Minimum length of a shift will be no less than 8 hours unless pre-approved by the Auxiliary Division Coordinator for special events.

5. Members 16 -17 years and 11 months of age will be classified as junior members and allowed to operate as a third. Junior members are not permitted to run any overnight shifts.

6. Members 18 years of age and older will be classified as a full member after a 6 month probationary period.

7. Once a member reaches 18 years of age, is a full member, and a position is available, they can be considered for part-time or full-time employment with Richmond County Department of Emergency Services.

8. Members who are under the 2 year program participation contract will have their service time as an auxiliary member pro-rated towards a 2 year education contract upon employment.

9. Any member who fails to meet the minimum requirements of the auxiliary division, after 1 year, will be removed from the roster and invoiced for any and all training costs incurred by the department on their behalf.

Mr. Thomas asked if the youth participating in the program would need parental consent. Captain Paulette noted that the parents would need to provide consent for the program as well as for the EMT class. Mr. Parr asked if the same would be true for the financial aspect, would the parents be responsible. Captain Paulette assured Mr. Parr that the financial responsibility would also be on the parents. Mr. Thomas inquired about the number of individuals who would be able to benefit from the program. Captain Paulette noted that upon advertising and finding interest among the high school students and current fire department members, he hopes to open the program up to a maximum of 15 individuals.

Mr. Quicke thanked Chief Baker and Captain Paulette for their work on the program and asked for approval from the Board to proceed. It was a consensus amongst the members to continue to move forward with the auxiliary program advertising, planning, etc.
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – MEDIC PURCHASE/OEMS GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Quicke advised that after further consideration and a visit to Atlantic Emergency Vehicles in Yorktown, the consensus for our new medic purchase is a Ford F-550 with a Wheeled Coach Box at a price of $214,860. A grant will be applied for from the Office of EMS RSAF on Friday, September 15th for 80/20 funding. Should 80/20 funding be awarded, the local share will be $42,972. Should only 50/50 funding be provided our portion will be $107,430. Mr. Quicke was excited to announce that Richmond County has received through USDA Rural Development a $25,000 grant for this purchase.

"On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to accept the recommendation as set forth above and proceed with the purchase of a Ford F-550 with a Wheeled Coach Box."

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Haynes addressed the Board and offered concern about financial decisions, responsibilities, etc. (See Exhibit A)

Shari Faina addressed the Board to share thanks for the planning of the upcoming Animal Shelter. Mrs. Faina is involved in a facebook group of animal lovers that is interested in the project. Mrs. Faina also noted that she was pleased with the uplifting, positive atmosphere of the Board meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

VIRGINIA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS – FISCAL STRESS INDICATOR

Mr. Quicke noted that as of August 31st, an official notification was received from the State Auditor of Public Accounts regarding the Fiscal Distress Indicator and Richmond County’s inclusion based off of our Financial Assessment Model (FAM) score for FY16. A letter has been received from State Auditor of Public Accounts, Martha Mavredes, as well as a follow up questionnaire. Mr. Quicke added that he had completed the questionnaire and prepared a press release for review. Additionally, Mr. Quicke has spoken to both Senator Ryan McDougle and Delegate Margaret Ransone on the topic and have advised both on the recent progress as well as the intention to cooperate with the State regarding the follow up.

"On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to approve the press release as follows and move forward with the submittal of the follow-up questionnaire."
Richmond County Statement Regarding State Findings on Fiscal Distress

In a recent report released by the State Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) regarding the state’s grading of localities under fiscal distress, Richmond County was one of four counties and cities within the state that has been flagged as fiscally stressed. County Administrator, Morgan Quicke, had this to say: “The Richmond County Board of Supervisors has worked very hard over the past 5 years to strengthen the County budget by correcting imbalances to be more structurally sound while keeping the Richmond County Taxpayer in mind by limiting increases to the Real Estate and Personal Property Tax. The reports recently reviewed and graded by the APA are from the audited fiscal years of 2014, 2015 and 2016, years in which the County Budget was being re-worked and re-structured in order to build a more solid foundation for the County moving forward. It is our strong belief that once our recently concluded Fiscal Year 2017 is audited this fall, we will begin to see our numbers of fiscal stability increase to more appropriate levels.” Quicke went on to say “We want to ensure the citizens and property owners of Richmond County that this is something we have been on top of for the last several years. Just as a down economy affects an individual; it also affects localities due to decreased overall property value, which leads to decreased revenue collection. As the local and state economy has begun to recover over the last several years, so has the County’s financial position. We anticipate that within the next three budget years, our unassigned cash balance will continue to grow, resulting in increased financial stability.”

As a part of the process moving forward, County leaders will be sitting down with representatives from the Auditor of Public Accounts as well as Virginia General Assembly Members involved with the money committees. Senator Ryan McDougle and Delegate Margaret Ransone will be key stakeholders in these talks as the County and the State begin meeting to address any concerns there may be. The General Assembly passed legislation in 2017 mandating the APA create a format to assess all Virginia Cities and Counties on the basis of fiscal stress in response to the recent financial crisis in the City of Petersburg.

VDOT RESOLUTION – ROUTE 3 SPEED LIMIT CHANGE

Mr. Quicke noted that Delegate Margaret Ransone has agreed to work with the County and introduce legislation in 2018 to increase the speed limit on Route 3 between the Town limits and Emmerton from 55 MPH to 60 MPH. The Board previously adopted a resolution last August requesting a speed study through VDOT. Delegate Ransone is asking for another Resolution requesting the change in speed limit.

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

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ALLOW A 60 MILE PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT ON PORTIONS OF VIRGINIA STATE ROUTE 3 IN RICHMOND COUNTY

WHEREAS, Route 3 runs throughout Richmond County from North to South; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Route 3 between the Corporate Limits of the Town of Warsaw and the Unincorporated area of Emmerton is a four lane divided highway; and
WHEREAS, on August 16, 2016, the Richmond County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation perform a Route 3 speed study in Richmond County; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Supervisors is requesting a speed limit change on this portion of State Route 3 from 55MPH to 60MPH.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Virginia Code Section 46.2-870, the Virginia General Assembly permit that said portion of Virginia State Route 3 in Richmond County to change from a 55MPH speed limit to a 60 MPH Speed Limit.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors

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NEW BUSINESS

METROCAST – ATLANTIC BROADBAND MERGER

Mr. Quicke announced that a letter had been received from MetroCast indicating a pending sale to Atlantic Broadband. Since Richmond County has a cable franchise agreement with them, it is necessary for the Board to consent to the transfer of the franchise.

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

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF THE CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE GRANTED BY RICHMOND COUNTY

FINDINGS

A. Richmond County ("Franchising Authority") has received a request from Gans Communications, L.P., d/b/a MetroCast Communications ("MetroCast"), to assign to Atlantic Broadband (Delmar), LLC, a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of Cogeco Communications, Inc., ("Atlantic Broadband") the cable television franchise held by MetroCast ("Franchise").

B. The Franchise requires that MetroCast obtain the Franchising Authority’s prior consent for the assignment of the Franchise by MetroCast to Atlantic Broadband.
C. MetroCast and Atlantic Broadband have properly requested the Franchising Authority’s consent to the assignment and transfer of the Franchise and related assets to Atlantic Broadband.

D. Atlantic Broadband has the financial, technical, and legal ability to fulfill the obligations of the Franchise, and the assignment of the Franchise to Atlantic Broadband will serve the public interest.

ORDINANCE

Based on the above findings, Richmond County resolves as follows:

1. The Franchising Authority consents to the transfer to Atlantic Broadband of the Franchise and all of MetroCast’s rights in and under the Franchise.

2. Upon the closing of the sale of MetroCast’s cable system to Atlantic Broadband (“Closing”), Atlantic Broadband shall become bound by the Franchise and shall perform and discharge all obligations and duties under the Franchise that arise on and after the Closing.

3. Upon Closing, the Franchising Authority releases MetroCast from all obligations and liabilities under the Franchise that relate to periods from and after the Closing.

4. Upon Closing, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (“CDPQ”) will have an indirect equity interest in Atlantic Broadband.

5. Atlantic Broadband may: (a) assign or transfer its assets to an entity directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with Atlantic Broadband; (b) restructure debt or change the ownership interests among its existing equity holders and/or CDPQ; (c) pledge or grant to any lender a security interest in Atlantic Broadband’s assets to secure indebtedness; and (d) sell equity interests in Atlantic Broadband or any of Atlantic Broadband’s affiliates.

6. All Franchising Authority action necessary to approve this Resolution and the Franchise transfer has been duly and validly taken.

7. This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

Passed and adopted the 14th day of September, 2017.

______________________________
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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R. Morgan Quicke
Clerk, Board of Supervisors
NORTHERN NECK ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

Mr. Quicke addressed the Board for discussion on possible support of a newly developed Adult Drug Court Program. Commonwealth Attorney, Mrs. Libby Trible, together with Ms. Auriel Walker from Northern Neck Regional Jail presented the program to the Board and noted that it would be the Northern Neck and Essex County Drug Court Program. The program is designed to help with the opioid epidemic since the overdose drug crisis is becoming more and more prevalent in the area. A pending grant would cover all costs of the program except for $25,000.00. Mrs. Trible and Ms. Walker asked for the support of Richmond County for the share of the 25% match for the duration of the grant period.

Mr. Pemberton suggested that after the first three-year period of operation of the program, perhaps the cost could be prorated based upon usage.

Ms. Walker noted the program would basically be expanding the probation services as each participant would be held accountable weekly.

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

RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Richmond County Board of Supervisors has been petitioned to support the proposed establishment of a regional adult drug court program to serve the Northern Neck counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland, as well as Essex County; and

WHEREAS, this Board has been advised of the availability of federal grant funding to support the establishment of such programs, including a three-year implementation grant and a three-year sustainability grant; and

WHEREAS, this Board has been advised that the federal grant funding will require a 25% local match which would be due annually for the duration of the grant, and that each of the participating localities will be asked to contribute an equal portion of the 25% local match annually for the duration of the grant period; and

WHEREAS, drug court programs require participant accountability with the goal of reducing recidivism and its effects on the community, thereby providing a cost-effective, integrated system of treatment through intensive judicial supervision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Richmond County Board of Supervisors endorses the proposed establishment of a regional adult drug court program pursuant to Section 18.2-254.1 of the Code of Virginia (otherwise known as the Drug Treatment Court Act).
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Date of Adoption: September 14, 2017

F. Lee Sanders
Board of Supervisors
Richmond County

RICHMOND COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER PROPERTY – FORMAL ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY FROM RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Quicke advised that at the August meeting of the Richmond County School Board, the School Board voted to surplus a portion of property located at the former Intermediate School, and turn the property over to the Richmond County Board of Supervisors for the purpose of constructing the planned animal shelter. The Board of Supervisors needs to formally accept this turnover of property from the Richmond County School Board.

“On a motion made by William C. Herbert, II, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to accept the turnover of property from the Richmond County School Board.”

VACO CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT PROGRAM – GOVERNOR’S MANSION

Mr. Quicke mentioned that the Virginia Association of Counties is again this year asking localities to collect ornaments for the Christmas tree at the Governor’s Mansion. Mr. Quicke will begin soliciting for ornaments to be returned to the Board for judging.

ROSE HILL GOLF CART COMMUNITY – REQUEST

Mr. Quicke noted that the Rose Hill Community has requested the Board of Supervisors consider allowing their neighborhood to be a Golf Cart community consistent with the Code of Virginia. The process of designating a golf cart community needs the Board of Supervisors approval by ordinance, after a Public Hearing.

“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to schedule a public hearing on October 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for discussion of allowance of golf carts in the Rose Hill Community.”

RICHMOND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING – CHILLER UPDATE

Mr. Quicke updated the Board on the status of the large chiller unit located outside of the main administrative building, which is now running at full capacity. One of the two compressors failed and was replaced at a cost of about $13,000. Throughout the process, new units and new compressors were quoted, and the new units ranged from $45,000 - $62,000. Mr. Quicke added that he is in the process of negotiating a new maintenance service contract with Dominion Service Company, the company that has replaced the compressor based off of the recommendation by Pritchard and Fallin.
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ONGOING PROJECTS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – EMS AND ANIMAL SHELTER

Mr. Quicke hopes to have plans finalized soon to get them out to bid.

FEDERAL ENGINEERING RADIO STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Quicke alerted the Board that the radio study by Federal Engineering was approximately 25% complete. Federal Engineering hopes to attend the November meeting to give final report.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Quicke noted that the Board of Trustees for the Richmond County Public Library has a vacancy that it would like to fill. Ms. Carolyn Loritsch resigned her position due to a re-location. The Trustees have asked Mrs. Susan Gouldin to fill the unexpired term ending on June 30, 2018.

“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to appoint Mrs. Susan Gouldin to the Board of Trustees for the Richmond County Public Library for a term ending June 30, 2018.”

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; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to appropriate $85,000.00 to the Richmond County Department of Social Services for the month of October, 2017.”

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 $1,339,971.00 to the Richmond County School Board for the month of October, 2017.”

“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 appropriate $95,690.15 to the Richmond County School Board for remaining federal programs from the 2017-2017 fiscal year to be spent in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (Title I - $60,447.10, Title II A - $18,311.53, Title VIB, SubpartB - $16,931.52)"

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Quicke explained three (3) supplemental appropriations for the Board to consider:
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“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 appropriate $52,711.00 to the E-911 department for digital voice logging recorder replacement, wherein grant funds were received in the amount of $52,711.00.”

“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 $6,028.00 to the Misc. & Contingency department for the balance due from the FY17 Worker’s Comp Audit.”

“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 $1,100.00 to the General Properties department wherein an IDA rent check was mistakenly deposited into the County general fund rather than the IDA Account.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 10, 2017

“On a motion made by William C. Herbert, II, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2017 meeting.”

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas noted that everything seems to be going well and hopes to see that continue.

Mr. Parr complimented Captain Paulette and the EMS department on their work on the Auxiliary program. Mr. Parr also complimented Mr. Quicke on his action towards the fiscal stress matter.

Mr. Quicke noted that the Hazardous Waste Day for Richmond County was approaching and would be advertised soon. Also, Mr. Quicke added that he had discussed with the Soil and Water Conservation District a grant application for a tractor with bucket which could be very helpful on tire recycling day and household hazardous waste day.

Mr. Quicke also brought to the Board a topic of chickens killed by stray dogs. The topic will be placed on the agenda for October.

CLOSED SESSION

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), a personnel matter involving salary or other compensation of a specific employee.”

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton –
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aye: as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)29, discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion on an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.”

CERTIFICATION MOTION AFTER RECONVENING IN PUBLIC SESSION:

“On a motion made by Robert B. Pemberton, the Board voted by roll call: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – 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

“On a motion made by Richard E. Thomas, the Board voted: F. Lee Sanders – aye; Richard E. Thomas – aye; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to accept the proposed Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collection Contract from John C. Hutt, Jr., P.C.”

RECESS

Chairman Sanders recessed the meeting until 7:00 p.m. for advertised Public Hearing.

RECONVENE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 AT 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
Hope Mothershead, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia L. Balderson, Northern Neck Food Bank
Craig Hazzard, Northern Neck Food Bank
Harry Smith

Chairman Sanders called the meeting back to order.
PUBLIC HEARING – LAND SALE / NORTHERN NECK FOOD BANK

In accordance with Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended and pursuant to Section 15.2-1800 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, the Richmond County Board of Supervisors hereby give notice that a Public Hearing will be held starting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 14, 2017 in the Richmond County Public Meeting Room, 101 Court Circle, Warsaw, Virginia 22572. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following:

- The proposed sale of four (4) acres of land located inside the Richmond County Commerce Park to the Northern Neck Food Bank for the purpose of building a new warehouse and office facility. The land in question fronts on Commerce Park Drive and adjoins property owned by Bay Aging.

Mr. Quicke addressed the Board and informed them of the proposed sale of 4 acres of land in the Richmond County Commerce Park to the Northern Neck Food Bank at a sale price of $25,000 per acre. The purpose of the purchase is to build new office space and warehouse space for the Northern Neck Food Bank, an entity that services the four counties of the Northern Neck and two counties of the Middle Peninsula.

Cynthia Balderson and Craig Hazard from the Northern Neck Food Bank were in attendance. Ms. Balderson shared a visual of the plans for the new location. She stated that the food bank had outgrown the current location and was renting extra storage space, therefore, they are looking for a permanent home and would love the opportunity to purchase four acres to stay centrally located in their region.

Mr. Thomas asked if the warehouse would be air conditioned. Mr. Hazzard noted that the warehouse would be kept at 75 degrees.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor to the public.

With no comments from the public, 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; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to offer the four acres to the Northern Neck Food Bank at the cost of $100,000.00 and authorize R. Morgan Quicke to engage the necessary services to accomplish the closing procedure."

PUBLIC HEARING – LEASE / FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

In accordance with Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended and pursuant to Section 15.2-1800 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, the Richmond County Board of Supervisors hereby give notice that a Public Hearing will be held starting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 14, 2017 in the Richmond County Public Meeting Room, 101 Court Circle, Warsaw, Virginia 22572. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to consider the following:
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- The proposed lease with the Family Development Center / Walnut Street Daycare for the property located at 102 Walnut Street, presently occupied by Family Development Center / Walnut Street Daycare.

Mr. Quicke addressed the Board and noted that the lease with Family Development Center is materially the same as was signed and agreed to in 2013 prior to the School Board taking over the operations of the facility. This is a proposed one year lease that runs September 2017 – September 2018, at $450 each month, which would allow to County to break even on expenses, barring a large capital expense such as HVAC, roof, or other major repairs. This lease would need to be revisited in the summer of 2018 for further renewal and considerations.

Mr. Parr was concerned about the County being responsible for repairs of appliances, etc. within the building. Mr. Herbert also shares the concern of possible repairs. The Board agreed that language should be added in the contract to allow for warranty of any household type appliances for a period of 30 days.

Chairman Sanders opened the floor to the public.

With no comments from the public, 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; William C. Herbert, II – aye; J. David Parr – aye; Robert B. Pemberton – aye: to approve the Lease with Family Development Center, as amended."

ADJOURNMENT

After no further business, Chairman Sanders adjourned the meeting.

F. Lee Sanders, Chairman
Richmond County Board of Supervisors
LESS THAN A DECADE AGO RICHMOND COUNTY HAD SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN RESERVE. OUR SCHOOLS WERE AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN THEY ARE NOW. THEN SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, THEIR SPOUSES AND CRONIES TOOK OVER THE MAJORITY ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. THEY HAVE MAINTAINED THAT MAJORITY EVER SINCE.

WITHIN A FEW YEARS THE RESERVES WERE DEPLETED AND THE COUNTY WAS PAYING BILLS WITH BORROWED MONEY. REAL ESTATE TAXES ROSE FROM 56 CENTS PER HUNDRED TO 70 CENTS, THE HIGHEST IN THE NORTHERN NECK. MOST OF THIS MONEY WENT INTO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT SAT SCORES, AVERAGED 37 POINTS BELOW THE STATE MEAN FOR THE THREE CATEGORIES MEASURED.

THE EXTENT OF OUR DECLINE IS SPELLED OUT IN THE RECENT REPORT FROM THE VIRGINIA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS WHICH REVEALS THAT RICHMOND COUNTY HAS HAD THE LOWEST RANKING FOR FISCAL HEALTH AMONG ALL COUNTIES FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW A COUNTY SHOULD BE RUN I WILL OFFER A COMPARISON TO NOTTOWAY COUNTY WHICH WAS RANKED NUMBER ONE IN FISCAL HEALTH.

NOTTOWAY COUNTY HAS A COMPOSITE INDEX OF .2447, WELL BELOW OUR SCORE OF .3599. IN OTHER WORDS THEY HAVE FEWER FINANCIAL RESOURCES THAN WE DO.

NOTTOWAY HAS A REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY OF 44 CENTS PER HUNDRED. OUR RATE, AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, IS 70 CENTS PER HUNDRED.

55% OF OUR STUDENTS ARE ON FREE OR SUBSIDIZED LUNCH PROGRAMS. THEIR FIGURE IS 64%.

THEY SPEND 27% ABOVE THE STATE REQUIRED LOCAL EFFORT, FAR BELOW OUR CONTRIBUTION WHICH IS 77% ABOVE.

THEIR LOCAL PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE IS $9,764.00. OURS IS $12,218.00. THEIR AVERAGE TEACHER SALARY IS $45,405.00. OURS IS $51,978.00.

WE HAVE A 16.6% PERCENT NONRESIDENT STUDENT POPULATION THAT PAYS NO TUITION. THEY HAVE A .002% NONRESIDENT POPULATION THAT DOES PAY TUITION.

CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT NOTTOWAY IS FAR POORER THAN US AND SPENDS FAR LESS ON THEIR SCHOOLS ONE WOULD THINK THAT OUR SCHOOLS WOULD BE FAR SUPERIOR. THAT IS NOT THE CASE. OUR AVERAGE MEAN SAT SCORES ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL. OUR AVERAGE IS 470. THEIRS IS 460.

STATE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS MARTHA MARVEDES MAKES AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RICHMOND COUNTY AND NOTTOWAY COUNTY IN A RECENT RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH ARTICLE:

"SOME LOCALITIES ARE VERY DEBT AVERSE...SOME OF IT IS JUST THE CHOICES THEY'VE MADE IN REGARD TO THE LOCALITY. THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE MANY RESOURCES BUT THEY HAVE MANAGED WELL WITH THE RESOURCES THEY'VE HAD."

ONE REASON THAT WE HAVE REACHED THIS POINT IS THAT OUR SCHOOL BOARD, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT AND THE LOCAL MEDIA HAVE CONSISTENTLY FAILED TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH ACCURATE AND HONEST INFORMATION.

A NORTHERN NECK NEWS REPORTER RECENTLY ADMITTED TO ME THAT SHE DOES NOT FACT CHECK INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE SCHOOLS AND THAT SHE CANNOT ATTEST TO ITS ACCURACY.

OUR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ROUTINELY MAKES FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS REGARDING THE SCHOOLS AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACCEPTS IT AS GOSPEL WITH NO FACT CHECKING WHATSOEVER.

OUR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BENDS HIMSELF INTO A PRETZEL MAKING EXCUSES AND MINIMIZING THE HORRENDOUS PERFORMANCE OF OUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

"EACH OF YOU BEFORE ME RAISED YOUR HAND TO GOD AND SWEARED TO PERFORM YOUR DUTIES FAITHFULLY AND IMPARTIALLY. YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO."