

Minutes
Richmond County Board of Commissioners
1401 Fayetteville Road, Conference Room, Rockingham, NC
Virtual - Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021

The Richmond County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. with the following present: Commissioner Don M. Bryant, Commissioner Tavares Bostic, Commissioner Rick Watkins, Commissioner Toni R. Maples, Commissioner Andy Grooms, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins, and Chairman Jeff Smart. County Attorney Bill Webb was remote

ITEM NO. 1 Invocation by Commissioner Toni Maples

Invocation was given by Commissioner Maples

ITEM NO. 2 Approval of Agenda - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Rick Watkins and seconded by Don Bryant. Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Tavares Bostic voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 3 Consent Agenda - Decision

**Approval of Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 5, 2021 as
A) Submitted by the Clerk for Review**

**Approval of Tax Releases And Tax Refunds for the Month of December,
B) 2020**

**Approval of North Carolina Vehicle Tax System Refund Report for the
C) Month of December 2020**

**Approval of Budget Amendment for CDC COVID-19 Vaccination
D) Program**

E) Approval of the Direct Pack Building Reuse Grant

By a motion of Commissioner Don Bryant and seconded by Commissioner Tavares Bostic. Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Rick Watkins voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

ITEM NO. 4 Open Forum for Public Comments - 5:30 - 6:00 PM

No one signed up to speak

ITEM NO. 5 Public Hearing on Proposed Text and/or Map Amendment(s) to the Richmond County Zoning Ordinance RZM 2020- 4 - Tracy Parris, Planning Director - Discussion

Public Hearing was opened at 5:33PM by Chairman Jeff Smart

Staff communciated rules of rezoning as well as staff analysis. Staff read the following letters that were sent to Clerk of the Board.

Paulette Wall

Terkingness Covington
2402 Old Aberdeen Road
Rockingham, NC 28379

Terry Covington
130 Ellen Road
Rockingham, NC 28379

Public Hearing was closed at 5:50PM by Chairman Jeff Smart

ITEM NO. 6 Monthly Report by County Manager Bryan Land

The Tax and Collections Departments have been extremely busy for the last 45 days. As I have stated previously, I am very thankful for the drive thru window that we have to serve our customers. It has been an amazing asset that we couldn't have done without during the Covid shutdown. I received updated year to date collection percentages through Jan yesterday and I am pleased to announce, we are currently outpacing last year's figures by .3 of 1% through January, which is important to note was our best January collection percentage on record. Our Tax Administrator Mr. Vegas Jackson, Tax Collector Ms. Michelle Holden and myself feel highly confident that we will still be able to achieve our goal of a 97% collection rate through the hard work and dedication of our collections staff. We have a great team in collections!

Staying on the topic of tax and the budget, we are fastly approaching budget season for our next physical year. We will be sending out budget worksheets to our county department heads and also outside agencies including the schools on February 19th. The deadline for ALL outside agency budget request will be March 15th.

Our solid waste report is as follows: we picked up 415 bags for a total of approximately 5.1 tons. Additionally, 8 tires were removed; we cleaned up 19 different roadways with Richmond County Staff and DOT forces. NCDOT is still short staff and under funded so the majority of the cleanup is being handled by our staff. Our Solid Waste Enforcement Officer investigated 2 illegal dump sites and issued 2 citations. Just as an update, the Chairman and a few citizens called in with a few roadways that needed extra attention as soon as possilbe. Those were: Airport Road, US 1 N, Highway 381, Highway 38 . We have completed Airport Road, Highway 381 and a portion of US 1. We will complete the others as soon as possible. I continue to urge citizens to join in against the fight of the litter epidemic.

Transitioning to the Health side, Dr Tommy Jarrell, Cheryl Speight and the entire Health Department staff have done a tremendous job with handling the day-to-day duties with a Covid vaccine clinic in conjunction with First Health. Everyone has pitched in to make the whole vaccination process work like a well oiled machine. I assure you that isn't the case in every rural community in our Country. We all are hopeful 2021 will bring a glimmer of hope for everyone and we will start to see some results from the vaccine soon.

Staying on the health topic, as of today our County Covid numbers are as follows: we currently have had 3,763 positive cases for Covid 19. To date we have tested 31,713 and of those 27,950 have come back negative or inconclusive. 3,412 individuals have recovered. We currently have 275 active cases. We have had 76 deaths and 23 additional since our last meeting.

Continuing the

COVID Vaccine Update

A limited supply of vaccine began arriving in our county Christmas Week

Since that time, following state guidelines for distribution of group 1a workers and age 65 and over

Health Department (working in partnership with First Health):

Approximately **3,900** Richmond County residents have received their **first** dose of the vaccine and approximately **600** of the **3,900** who have received their first dose have also received their **second** dose of the vaccine. There is a 28 day waiting period between the first and the second dose.

This week, **1,300** are scheduled to receive their first dose (age 65 and over) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Once age 65 and over are completed, North Carolina's COVID Vaccination Plan is to move to essential workers age 50 and over.

Anyone age 65 and over who would like a COVID vaccine should call 417-3030 at this time.

A REMINDER, IT IS NOT THE DECISION OF RICHMOND COUNTY TO DETERMINE THE ORDER OF VACCINE DISTRIBUTION. THE DECISION OF VACCINATION PRIORITY DISTRIBUTION IS DETERMINED BY THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND/OR US GOVERNMENT.

I did want to briefly touch on a few updates from topics that came up last meeting.

Commissioner Watkins had asked about landscaping our sign at Marks Creek Industrial Park, especially since Global Packaging will be constructing a new 40k square foot facility at the entrance to the Industrial Park. That project has been awarded to Hodges Landscaping and construction should begin within the month. Also an update on our gateway signs. The Purple Heart signs have been erected as well as our home of Rockingham Dragway and the heart of the Carolinas sign has been placed at the airport.

Last week, we completed our Magistrates office roofing project, Dunn Builders and our County Maintenance staff, tackled the project. This was a roof that has been in dire need of replacement for quite some time.

The CSX rail crossing closings that we touched on last month have been delayed and are moving slower than expected due to weather. We will update everyone on the closings as additional information from CSX comes in.

One last reminder, our annual household hazardous waste day is scheduled for April 10th from 9 am -1pm at the Richmond County Health Dept Parking Lot at 127 Caroline Street. Some of the items accepted are: oil based paints, aerosols, solvents and degreasers, household cleaners, acids, pool chemicals, batteries, fluorescent light tubes, propane cylinders, and latex paints. All these items aren't typically accepted at our convenient box site locations.

ITEM NO. 7 Adjournment - Decision

By a motion of Commissioner Rick Watkins and seconded by Commissioner Tavares Bostic. Commissioner Andy Grooms voted yes, Vice Chairman Justin Dawkins voted yes, Commissioner Toni Maples voted yes, Chairman Jeff Smart voted yes, Commissioner Don Bryant voted yes, and by unanimous vote. Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by the Clerk

Dena R. Cook, NCCCC

Clerk to the Board

Richmond County Board of Commissioners