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AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Supervisors

Drew Wade, Chair
District 5
Claudia Tucker, Vice-Chair
District 2
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor
District 4
Tom Martin, Supervisor
District 1
Chris Adams, Supervisor
District 3

MINUTES

May 7, 2024

Administration Building - 153 Washington
Street - Public Meeting Room
Amherst, Virginia 24521
Meeting Convened - 3:00 PM

County Administrator
Jeremy Bryant

County Attorney
Mark Popovich

I. Call to Order

At a regular meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors held on May 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Drew Wade, Chair
Claudia D. Tucker, Vice-Chair
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor
Tom Martin, Supervisor
Chris Adams, Supervisor

ABSENT: None

STAFF:

Jeremy S. Bryant, County Administrator
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chairman Wade called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

NOTE: All Board of Supervisors' meetings are now being streamed live on Facebook and on YouTube.

II. Approval of Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda.

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Pugh led the Invocation and Chairman Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Ordinance - First Read

A. Ordinance 2024-2 Public Safety

In September 2023, the Board received a comprehensive study of Fire & EMS in Amherst County from the Virginia Fire Services Board. In February 2024, the Board met jointly with leadership from both volunteer fire & EMS, and Public Safety staff to discuss the findings and develop a plan for the future. Following that meeting, the Board directed the County Attorney to draft an ordinance change to better define the process for accountability in Fire & EMS, and a policy for maintaining accountability. This ordinance change captures that, and changes the name of Public Safety from "*Amherst County Public Safety*" to "*Amherst County Fire & EMS*". This name change is more reflective of the department's role, and promotes inclusion of all Fire & EMS members in the county, regardless if they are volunteers or career.

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to advertise Ordinance 2024-2 for public hearing on May 21, 2024, with the following three noted amendments.

1. Removing reference to executive committee.
2. Adding the word Virginia in Section 11.5-17(a)
3. Incorporating language requiring having a firefighter-1 certification if operating in an environment where a self-contained breathing apparatus is being used or hazmat operations.

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VI. Consent Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for May 7, 2024.

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

A. Minutes - April 16, 2024

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of April 16, 2024.

B. Minutes - April 30, 2024

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of April 30, 2024.

C. Appropriation of Revenue - Sheriff's Office

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of funds as described.

D. Appropriation of Revenue - Amherst County Public Schools

It was moved that the Board appropriate the \$284,000 of additional revenue to the 2023-2024 School Operational Budget.

VII. Old Business

A. Adoption of FY 2025 Tax Rates

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved Resolution 2024-2-R as presented.

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

B. Adoption of the Amherst County Schools FY 2025 Budget

By motion of Vice-Chair Tucker and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2024-3-R as presented.

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VIII. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney advised the Board that he has been keeping the County Administrator apprised of additional settlement amounts being submitted to the county with regards to the opioid litigation matters.

IX. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Planning Commission - David Pugh

Supervisor Pugh reported that he was unable to attend the last Planning Commission meeting and asked that Tyler Creasy provide an update. Mr. Creasy stated at the last meeting there were two public hearings, one for a special events and photography venue on Phyllis Lea Drive that was recommended for denial to the Board of Supervisors with a 4-2 vote. The second public hearing was a special exception for an Airbnb off of Nikonha Lane near Stallings Lane off of E Perch Road, which was recommended for approval and coming before the Commission is an Ordinance in regards to self-storage units. The Commission is proposing to make that use a special exception and there will also be a special exception for a campground off of Burford Farm Road being heard next week.

X. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XI. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Chair Wade wanted to thank the Planning District Commission about their work on a grant for South Madison Heights.

Vice-Chair Tucker had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Martin had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Adams asked the County Administrator to advise where the county is at on the fiscal year 2023 audit.

XII. Closed Session

- A. A closed session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to evaluate the performance of the County Administrator.

Chairman Wade motioned to go into closed session and was approved with the following vote:

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Adams
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

Chairman Wade motioned to come out of closed session and was approved with the following vote:

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Adams
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

- B. A closed session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to evaluate the performance of the County Attorney.

Chairman Wade motioned to go into closed session and was approved with the following vote:

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Adams
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

Chairman Wade motioned to come out of closed session and was approved with the following vote:

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Adams
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

XIII. Certification of Closed Session

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

I move that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors certify by a recorded vote that, to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session.

Mr. Wade: AYE
Mrs. Tucker: AYE
Mr. Pugh: AYE
Mr. Martin: AYE
Mr. Adams: AYE

XIV. Adjournment

By motion of Chairman Wade and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 4:02 pm.

AYE: Mr. Wade, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Adams
NAY: None
ABSENT: None



Drew Wade, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator