



BOOK 39
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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

December 17, 2024
Administration Building - 153 Washington
Street - Public Meeting Room
Amherst, Virginia 24521
Meeting Convened - 7:00 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 December 17, 2024, at 7:00 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
Stacey McBride, Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chairman Wade called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Martin 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

Vice-Chair Tucker led the Invocation and Supervisor Pugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

Jim Vasquez addressed the Board thanking the rescue squad for assisting him recently during a vehicle accident. He also stated that the most recent special exception is the appropriate place for a wedding and party venue as it is a large parcel of land and not a residential neighborhood.

Stuart Gregory addressed the Board regarding his opinions on the most recent special exception being heard in public hearing as well as his opinions on the ruling of a special exception wedding venue approved by the board in his neighborhood.

V. Public Hearing

A. Special Exception 2024-608 Mark & Andrea Hamm

Request by Mark and Andrea Hamm for a Special Exception in the A-1, Agricultural Residential District. The purpose of the Special Exception is to allow a photography venue and special events space for weddings and other similar uses. The property is located at 154 Buffalo Springs Turnpike and is further identified as tax map number 47-A-8.

The Planning Commission recommended approval with a 6-0 vote.

The Public Hearing was opened.

The applicants, Mark and Andrea Hamm, addressed the Board.

Proponents: Jenna Lloyd Fisher

Opponents: None

The Public Hearing was closed.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved Special Exception 2024-608 at 154 Buffalo Springs Turnpike to allow a special events and photography venue with the listed conditions.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Conditions:

1. The entrance shall be approved by the Virginia Department of Transportation for the proposed change of use before issuance of a zoning permit.
2. All requirements of the Virginia Department of Health shall be met (one privy per 100 persons) for each event.
3. Guests shall be required to park on the property and not park on neighboring lots or on any right-of-way outside of their property unless they have written permission.
4. No more than 100 people may be in attendance at one event.

B. Special Exception 2024-620 Arcola Towers 2, LP

Request by Arcola Towers 2, LP for a special exception in the A-1, Agricultural Residential District. The purpose of the special exception is to allow a 199' overall height monopole communications tower (Personal Wireless Service Facility) inside a 50'x50' fenced compound with supporting equipment. The property is located at 299 Toytown Road and is further identified as tax map number 83-1-2.

The Planning Commission recommended approval with a 6-0 vote.

Jonathan Yeatts, with Arcola Towers, addressed the Board.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

The Public Hearing was closed.

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved Special Exception 2024-620 subject to the listed conditions.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Conditions:

1. The property shall be developed in substantial compliance with the "Apple Market Arcola Towers Rawland NB+C Project # 101019" site plan dated October 18, 2024.
2. The proposed Arcola Towers Landscaping shall be extended around the entire 50'x50' fenced compound.
3. The petitioner shall draft and record documentation satisfactory to the zoning administrator for Tax Map No. 83-1-2A pertaining to the fall zone and break-point technology associated with the personal wireless service facility located on Tax Map No. 83-1-2.

VI. Consent Agenda

By motion of Chairman Wade and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for December 17, 2024.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

A. Minutes - December 3, 2024

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of December 3, 2024.

VII. New Business

A. Appropriate Library FY 2025 E-rate grant

By motion of Chairman Wade and with the following vote, the Board appropriated \$9,565.07 of E-rate grant revenue into the FY 2025 Library operating budget.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VIII. County Administrator's Report

A. Agriculture Committee Vacancy

By motion of Vice-Chair Tucker and with the following vote, the Board reappointed Tyler Price, Craig Maddox, and Lisa Powell to serve three-year terms and directed staff to schedule interviews on January 7, 2025 with Haylee Creamer and Cooke Harvey.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

B. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Development Board Vacancy

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board reappointed Bailey Angus to serve another five-year term on the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Development Board for another.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

IX. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney had no matter to discuss.

X. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Development Board- Tom Martin

Supervisor Martin reported that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is expected to be coming to the Board for review and approval. Mr. Martin stated that the Parks and Recreation Board is always doing great things in the parks and that he attributes that to the leadership, Mr. Nixon. He stated that Bocce Ball courts had recently been installed at the Coolwell Community Center. He said the Board is constantly looking for ways to improve the parks. Mr. Martin also reported that Seminole Park is doing great but did report that someone had recently stolen a trash can. He commended the Board on their accomplishments and told them to keep up the good work.

XI. Departmental Reports

A. Treasurer's Quarterly Report as of September 30, 2024

None - For the Board's Information.

XII. Citizen Comment

Haylee Creamer addressed the Board about her interest in serving on the Agriculture Committee.

XIII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Chair Wade reported that a few weeks ago with AEP's nuclear project in Lynchburg they put on a open house Q&A session at the Regional Alliance Center and it was very well attended. Mr. Wade stated that seeing how that is across the river from us he would like to see if AEP would be willing to come out and hold a session for Amherst County and if possible see if someone could come out and speak at the January 7, 2025 meeting. Mr. Wade also stated that the Board and some staff were able to attend a tour of the progress of the High School Construction and Renovation Project and expressed his appreciation to Dr. Wells and the School Board for the invitation to attend.

Vice-Chair Tucker had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Martin had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Adams had no matter to discuss.

XIV. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 7:48 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