



BOOK 39
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AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Supervisors

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

MINUTES

February 4, 2025
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 February 4, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Tom Martin, Vice-Chair
Chris Adams, Supervisor
Drew Wade, Supervisor

ABSENT:

David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor

STAFF:

Jeremy S. Bryant, County Administrator
Stacey McBride, Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chair Tucker 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 Wade and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Adams led the Invocation and Supervisor Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

Jeff Rowe addressed the Board regarding questions on the matter of legal services for Sheriff's Deputies who received Brady Letters from the Commonwealth Attorney; he questioned why his tax dollars would go towards that.

Leslie Gamble addressed the Board regarding the legal assistance for the deputies who received Brady Letters. She asked several questions regarding this matter.

Scott Camm addressed the Board and gave his opinion on the Brady Letters matter on the agenda.

Karen Craig addressed the Board, gave her opinion on the Brady Letters matter on the agenda, and asked the Board to support the Amherst County Sheriff's Office.

Jones Stanley addressed the Board and gave his opinion on his opinion on the Brady Letters matter on the agenda and expressed his opinion on every citizen having the right to defend themselves.

Chair Tucker read an email from Kim Wood, who had questions regarding the Brady Letters matter on the agenda.

V. Consent Agenda

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for February 4, 2025.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

A. Minutes - January 21, 2025

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of January 21, 2025.

B. Appropriation of Solid Waste Revenue

It was moved that the Board appropriate \$10,000 of Solid Waste Miscellaneous Revenue for overtime into the landfill FY 25 operating budget.

C. Support of House Bill 2069 - Delegate Garrett

It was moved that the Board authorize the County Administrator's signature on the attached letter that supports proposed House Bill 2069.

VI. Special Presentation

A. Commemorative Resolution 2025-1-CR

Chair Tucker presented Mr. Parrish's family with Commemorative Resolution 2025-1-CR.

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved Commemorative Resolution 2025-1-CR as presented.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

VII. Old Business

A. Potential Service District (Victoria Drive)

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to draft a service district Ordinance.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

VIII. New Business

A. Monroe Community Center Windows Funding

By motion of Supervisor Wade and with the following vote, the Board approved the use of a portion of the \$1.2M leftover school project funds equal to the final cost of the Monroe Community Center window project for debt service, and the transfer of the excess debt service budget to the Monroe Community Center window project.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

B. Carryover FY24 Monelison Rescue Funding

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board appropriated the FY 24 carryforward of the Monelison Rescue annual funding into the public safety budget for renovations needed at the Monelison Rescue building.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

C. Transfer Firefighter-I Overtime

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board transferred \$70,000 into the Public Safety operating budget for overtime as described.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

D. Legal Service Funding for Sheriff Deputies

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed the County Administrator to transfer \$15,000 from the line of duty insurance line to the Board of Supervisors legal services line item allowing \$20,000, from which funds can be withdrawn to assist Sheriff's Office deputies in their legal defense against alleged wrongdoing resulting in the issuance of a *Brady* letter so long as the Sheriff supports and shows the Board of Supervisors that the issuance of the *Brady* letter is based on inaccurate information.

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

NAY: Mr. Wade

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

Extensive details can be found by listening to the audio and video of this meeting.

E. Public Safety Camera System Install

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board authorized the utilization of up to \$150,000 from the 911 tax fund to install a camera system and six locations throughout the county and include the ten year software purchase.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

IX. County Administrator's Report

A. Boards/Commissions/Committees - Board of Zoning Appeals

By motion of Chair Tucker and with the following vote, the Board recommended to the Circuit Court reappointment of Ms. Catherine Gamble to the Board for a five-year term.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

X. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney had no matter to discuss.

XI. Departmental Reports

A. Economic Development Authority Board- Annual Report

Andrew Proctor, Economic Development Authority Board Chair, presented the Board with an annual report.

B. General Fund Availability Report

For the Board's Information.

XII. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XIII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Wade said he knew he may have been the night's dissenting vote on the Brady Letter Legal Services matter. Still, he would like to ask if the Board agrees to ask the County Administrator to set up bi-weekly meetings at minimum with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Wade requested that it be specifically Mr. Carver and Mr. Ayers to attend the meetings and that the purpose would be to start hashing through things to get everybody on the same page again, ensure everybody is on a unified front, and find ways to work together. Mr. Wade offered to be a facilitator if one was needed.

Chair Tucker questioned the request for understanding. She asked Supervisor Wade if the request was for the County Administrator to sit down with the two constitutional officers together and that Mr. Wade would like to facilitate it, to which Mr. Wade replied yes. Chair Tucker stated she would also be willing to sit in as a facilitator.

Vice-Chair Martin stated that he thought the meetings were a great idea; however, the Board cannot make Mr. Carver and Mr. Ayers meet with one another. All they can do is suggest and recommend it. Mr. Martin stated that it would be more beneficial if the County Administrator set up and facilitated the proposed meetings, leaving the Board out of the matter; all Board members agreed.

Supervisor Adams stated he felt the Board needed to respect Mr. Bryant, the County Administrator, too, as he did not want to put him in a vulnerable position trying to mend the fences of two Constitutional Officers. The Board members agreed with that statement. Mr. Adams stated he was for this facilitation of meetings between Mr. Carver and Mr. Ayers as long as Mr. Bryant was comfortable stimulating those talks and would not push anything upon him that put him in an uncomfortable position.

County Administrator Bryant stated that he would set the parameters. He said he would invite the Sheriff, the Commonwealth Attorney, and himself to a bi-weekly meeting until, at some point in time, hopefully, they will no longer be needed.

XIV. Adjournment

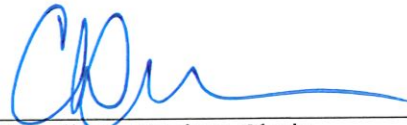
By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 5:45 pm.

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

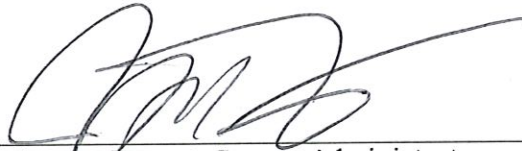
NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

Extensive details can be found by listening to the audio and video of this meeting.



Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator