



BOOK 39
Page 150-154



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

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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

ABSENT:

Drew Wade, 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 Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda with the amendment of removing Section V. Consent Agenda Item D. Appropriation of Revenue - Amherst County Public Schools.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Wade

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chair Martin led the Invocation and Supervisor Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

John Marks Jr. addressed the Board regarding the landfill and county budget concerns. Mr. Marks requested his comments be included in the official minutes. **(SEE ATTACHMENT 1)**

Mark Labadie addressed the Board regarding concerns over the local judicial system.

V. Consent Agenda

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Wade

A. Minutes - February 18, 2025

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of February 18, 2025.

B. Appropriation of Revenue - Social Services

It was moved that the Board appropriate funds received into the Social Services budget as described.

C. Carryover for James River Association Partnership

It was moved that the Board approve the carryover of \$20,000 for the James River Association partnership entered into in May 2024.

D. Appropriation of Revenue - Amherst County Public Schools

Item removed by Agenda Amendment.

E. Appropriate Grant Revenue Received - Ambulance

It was moved that the Board appropriate \$151,485.00 of grant funds for the ambulance received in 2024.

VI. Special Presentation

A. Blue Ridge Rising

Kevin Brandt, who is the Virginia Development Director with the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation came before the Board to ask for a resolution of support.

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2025-2-R as presented.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Wade

B. Landfill Financing

The Board received a presentation from the County's financial advisors, Davenport & Company LLC, containing a financial review and methods for financing the construction of Cell 2 of the landfill.

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to move forward with Scenario 2 for financing the construction of Cell 2 of the landfill.

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

C. Hill Studios - Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Hill Studios provided a presentation concerning the Parks and Recreation Department Masterplan to the Board of Supervisors. This document is for the board's review and to answer any questions concerning the master plan.

Staff is requesting the Board provide any changes to the master plan after reviewing the document presented. Staff will ask for approval at the April 1, 2025 meeting after all updates and changes have been finalized to the master plan.

VII. Old Business

A. Special Exception 2024-683 Poplar Church

Request by Poplar Church for a special exception in the A-1, Agricultural Residential District. The purpose of the special exception is to allow a digital sign with lights of changing degree of intensity, brightness, and or color. The property is located at 1583 Richmond Highway and is further identified as tax map no. 112-A-26.

The Board of Supervisors opened the public hearing and then tabled the request at their February 18, 2025, meeting.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of Special Exception 2024-683, with a 5-0 vote.

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved Special Exception 2024-683 with conditions.

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

Conditions:

- 1. The sign is to have auto-dimming capabilities.**
- 2. Frequency of change of message, once every 20 seconds.**

VIII. New Business

A. IT Strategic Plan Vendor Recommendation

The Board of Supervisors recommended that Amherst County develop an IT strategic plan during their annual Board Retreat in 2023. This project was placed in the supplemental budget for fiscal year 2025. A procurement process was conducted and Virtual IT, Inc. was selected as the contractor to perform the development of an IT Strategic Plan. A contract document has been developed and reviewed by the County Attorney and the IT Director. The document is attached for the Board's consideration and approval. The contractor's work will commence after approval of the contract and will be completed in five months.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board authorized the execution of the Development of an IT Strategic Plan contract with Virtual IT, Inc. as presented.

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

B. Union Hill Solar Farm (AEP) Discussion
For the Board's Information.

The County Attorney left the meeting at this time. 5:05 pm.

C. Emergency Services Council - Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) approval
In early 2024, the BOS asked the Emergency Services Council (ESC) to draft Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) for all volunteer and career staff to follow while responding to Fire and Emergency calls in Amherst County. The ESC has produced 8 SOGs and are asking the BOS to approve them for implementation throughout Amherst County.

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board voted to table this item until the April 1, 2025 meeting.

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

IX. County Administrator's Report

A. Amherst County Citizens Academy
For the Board's Information.

X. County Attorney's Report
The County Attorney had no matter to discuss.

XI. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Development Board- Tom Martin
Vice-Chair Martin reported that on April 5th, as part of the Amherst County Day at Sweet Briar College, the Parks and Recreation Board will hold an Easter Egg Hunt for the Community. He also reported that an AARP grant has been put in place to purchase kayaks at Mill Creek Lake.

XII. Citizen Comment
There was no public comment.

XIII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors
Chair Tucker had no matter to discuss.

Vice-Chair Martin had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Adams had no matter to discuss.

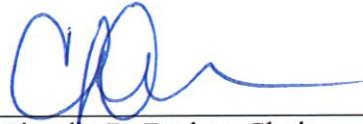
XIV. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 5:17 pm.

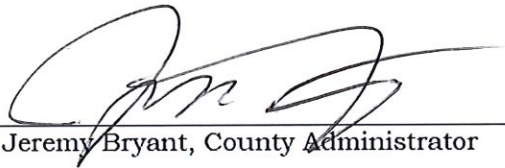
AYE: Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Martin, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Adams

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Wade



Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator

Presentation to The Amherst County Board of Supervisors

March 4th, 2025

Good evening, my name is John A. Marks, Jr. and I reside at 225 Clark Street, Madison Heights, VA. 24572 District 5.

Later in the meeting Davenport will be providing an analysis of the County's financial situation in relationship to the construction of Cell #2 at the landfill. As a citizen my review of the presentation leaves me with some serious questions that I hope get answered/clarified during the presentation, such as;

1. Is the \$2.5 million dollar loan for the Gateway project included in this assessment? As I understand Resolution No.2023-5-R and the Support Agreement, the county covers any shortfall in making debt service payments for the Service Authority loan from funds that are included in the County budget.
2. This assessment is based on issuing debt of \$5.2 million for the landfill operations for construction of Cell #2. It is my understanding that the estimated cost of Cell #2 is approximately \$3.9 million. I also noted that the landfill Closure/Post Closure Fund is underfunded. Is the difference between the \$5.2 million proposed debt and the \$3.9 estimated cost for Cell #2 to be used for the Closure/Post Closure Fund?
3. Something that as a tax paying citizen I found sort of unnerving was the statement that appeared in two places (page 4 and 12) that the "The County's governmental Operating Expenditures are growing at a faster pace than Operating Revenues". I would

take that to mean the County is spending more than it takes in. That is not good. One can only deficit spend for so long.

4. On page 10 in the section Titled "In the Aggregate" this statement is made. "The preliminary results of our analysis reflect that the County may need to identify up to approximately \$9.0 million, or the equivalent of roughly .06 on the Real Estate Tax Base, in resources through a combination of reserves and/or incrementally new revenue sources to afford the total debt funding of approximately \$18.3 million in identified capital needs over the next several years (now through FY40)". One would assume the \$5.2 million for the landfill construction is part of the \$18.3 million in Capital needs. According to sub note 3, to achieve the approximately \$9.0 through Real Estate taxes would require a 20% Real Estate tax increase. This needs to have some real evaluation/consideration.

I hope the presentation provides answers/clarification to some of these matters. We definitely need the new cell at the landfill, we may not need some of the other capital projects at this time.

Thanks.