



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

April 1, 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 April 1, 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 Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda with the amendment of removing Section X. Liaison and Committee Reports Item A. Planning Commission - David Pugh .

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Consent Agenda

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for April 1, 2025.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

A. Minutes - March 18, 2025 Budget Workshop

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of March 18, 2025 Budget Workshop.

B. Minutes - March 18, 2025

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

C. FY 25 Appropriation of Revenue - Sheriff's Office

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

VI. Special Presentation

A. Horizon Behavioral Health - Annual Report

The Board received an annual update from Melissa Lucy, Chief Executive Officer of Horizon Behavioral Health.

B. GO Virginia Region 2

Bif Johnson, a GOVA Region 2 council member, refreshed the Board of the priorities and strategies of GO Virginia Region 2 and highlighted the impact in Amherst County from past and current GO Virginia Region 2 projects.

VII. Old Business

A. 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.

Vice-Chair Martin stated for the record that he is the Chief of the Amherst Fire Department and that these guidelines do not affect the Amherst Fire Department solely; they are county-wide. Therefore, he is able to vote on this matter fairly and equitably.

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved the presented Standard Operating Guidelines for fire responses in Amherst County.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

B. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Approval

During the Board of Supervisors' retreat, the Board asked staff to develop and adopt a Recreation and Parks Master Plan by July 1, 2025. Staff commenced an RFP process that was advertised on June 12, 2023. Staff received two proposals and awarded the contract to Hill Studios in October 2023. Hill Studios and staff worked with the community and various Boards and Committees to seek input from the public to help shape the outcome of the plan. The Amherst County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Development Board was heavily involved in the guiding of this document. The Board is being asked to approve the Amherst County Parks and Recreation Masterplan.

Vice-Chair Martin stated that he does support the Parks and Recreation Master Plan however, he does not support demolishing the Shrader house

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved the Amherst County Parks and Recreation Masterplan as presented by Hill Studios and per the recommendations made by the Amherst County Recreation Advisory Board.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

C. FY 2026 Proposed Budget

By motion of Supervisor Wade and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to advertise the attached budget, the school budget, the solid waste budget, and tax rates for public hearing on April 29, 2025.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

VIII. New Business

A. VDOT Rural Rustic Six Year Road Plan

VDOT is going through an internal process to validate all its FY26-FY31 plans and seeks locality concurrence based on a public hearing. The requested public hearing will be held at the May 20, 2025, meeting.

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to schedule the Public Hearing on May 20, 2025.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

B. Law Enforcement Equipment Grant

The Sheriff's Office is requesting the approval to apply for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. The grant is for \$75,000 and requires that the locality cover a 25% match. The Sheriff's Office would pay the 25% match, \$18,750, out of Fine Revenue funds. The Sheriff's Office would utilize the grant funds to purchase computers for the department, AED's to equip officers in the field as well as other items to assist with investigations and evidence storage.

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the Sheriff's Office request

to apply for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant and allow the 25% match to be paid from the Sheriff's Office portion of Fine Revenue.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

C. VA Opioid Abatement Funds Expenditure Proposals

The Amherst County Opioid Abatement Taskforce is seeking approval for funds expenditure towards the purchase of two drone systems, rapid hair follicle testing equipment, and the purchase, build-out, and implementation of the Opioid Abatement Taskforce Project. The two drone systems will be utilized by the Amherst County Sheriff's department to assist in the search and seizure of illegal substances and operations. The Department of Social Services has requested the purchase of Rapid Hair Follicle Testing to help ensure we place vulnerable youths in safe, stable, and drug-free homes. The Opioid Abatement Taskforce Project is an expansion on the Cooperative Extensions' highly successful "Right Before Your Eyes" program to educate young people and parents alike on the dangers of substance abuse and today's unfortunate ease of concealment. A PowerPoint presentation has been developed for the Board to dive deeper into the details of these proposed expenditures.

The Committee approved the purchase of an SRO canine and will need those funds appropriated as well.

The opioid funds are restricted for specific purposes and the Opioid Abatement Taskforce has vetted each item to insure the requirements of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.

By motion of Supervisor Wade and with the following vote, the Board appropriated Opioid settlement funds for the expenditures proposed and the canine purchase.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

IX. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney had no matter to discuss.

X. Liaison and Committee Reports

Removed by Agenda Amendment.

A. Planning Commission - David Pugh

Removed by Agenda Amendment.

XI. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Chair Tucker had no matter to discuss.

Vice-Chair Martin wanted to recognize the great inner agency cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and the Volunteer Departments. Mr. Martin stated the night before there was a missing hiker on the Appalachian Trail, technology and teamwork were used and they were able to find the hiker fairly quickly and Mr. Martin thanked Sheriff Ayers, Chief Beam and their teams.

Supervisor Adams had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Wade had no matter to discuss.

XIII. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 4:41 pm.

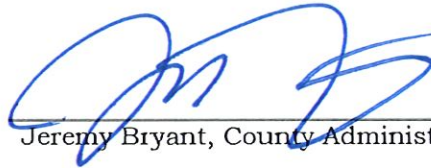
AYE: Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams and Mr. Wade

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh



Tom Martin, Vice-Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator