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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

May 20, 2025

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 May 20, 2025, at 7:00 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:

Stacey McBride, Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chair Tucker 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 Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda with the amendment of allowing Lt. Governor Nominee, John Reid, to speak when he arrives.

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 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 May 20, 2025.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

A. Minutes - May 6, 2025

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of May 6, 2025.

B. Appropriation of Recreation Revenue

It was moved that the Board appropriate the \$18,000 of recreation activities revenue into the recreation FY 2025 operating budget.

C. Appropriation of Revenue- Commonwealth's Attorney

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of funds from the State Compensation Board in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the Commonwealth's Attorney's budget as presented.

D. Appropriation of Revenue for VJCCCA-Court Services

It was moved that the Board appropriate \$10,000 of additional Court Services revenue into the FY 2025 operating budget.

E. Appropriation of Revenue for Public Works Emergency Repair

It was moved that the Board appropriate \$24,000 of recycling revenue to the landfill FY 2025 operating budget for the emergency repair.

VI. Special Presentation

A. Citizens Academy Graduation

Chair Tucker recognized seven members of the Amherst County Citizens Academy and presented them with a certificate of completion.

VII. New Business

A. Sheriff's Request for use of Vacancy Savings

By motion of Vice-Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board granted the Sheriff permission to use the vacancy savings as described.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

At this time, by Agenda Amendment, the Board allowed Lt. Governor Nominee, John Reid, a few moments to speak.

VIII. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney was not present for this meeting.

IX. Liaison and Committee Reports

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

Vice-Chair Martin reported that Mrs. Brenda Toney, Parks and Recreation Office Manager, is retiring, and there will be a reception for her on Tuesday, June 24th, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Monroe Community Center. Mr. Martin also reported that there were Parks and Recreation staff at the NCAA Regional Golf Tournament held at Poplar Grove Golf Course on May 12 through May 14, promoting the County. He also stated that the LED lights at Coolwell Park had to be postponed because of the weather, but are still in the works. Mr. Martin mentioned that the pickleball courts will be painted at Amherst Middle School and that there will be a lot of different programs for the summer that he encourages people to learn more about.

B. Agriculture Committee - Claudia Tucker

Chair Tucker reported that the Agriculture Committee is hard at work and mainly on the fair at this time. Mrs. Tucker reminded citizens that the fair has moved this year to September 4th through 7th and stated that the Livestock show promises to be the biggest one that we have seen and should likely set a record this year. She also stated that the music at the fair this year is all homegrown local talent. Mrs. Tucker also stated that the committee is currently working on ticket prices for this year and that Ms. Sprouse, Grants Administrator, is in charge of contacting sponsors and it is the hope that ticket prices will be able to be reduced.

C. Emergency Services Council - Chris Adams

Supervisor Adams reported that there was nothing of significance to report; however, the ESC is working on some initiatives that he does not think will have to make it back to the Board but they are still being productive and moving forward.

X. Citizen Comment

XI. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Wade had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Adams asked Sheriff Ayers, Major Begley, and Mrs. McBride if they had heard any updates as far as the budgetary process for the SRO's. They reported that they had and everything was approved. Mr. Adams also stated that following up after the joint meeting with the Planning Commission, he would like to put it before the Board to make a motion to move the initiative forward to place it in the hands of the Commission to start working on the battery storage area ordinances that the Board and Commission discussed collectively.

Vice-Chair Martin stated that he fully supports working on the battery storage area initiative and that having that in place does not force the Board to approve or deny any facility. Mr. Martin said that if they do direct the Planning Commission to do that he would be more comfortable if the County Attorney look into making sure they have everything in place to do any type of siting agreements or revenue sharing that would go along with that.

By motion of Supervisor Adams and with the following vote, the Board directed the Planning Commission to move forward working on battery storage area ordinances, and the County Attorney to address the incentives associated with those.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

Vice-Chair Martin had no matter to discuss.

Chair Tucker had no matter to discuss.

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.

Vice-Chair Martin motioned to go into closed session and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

Vice-Chair Martin motioned to come out of closed session and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

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.

Mrs. Tucker: AYE

Mr. Martin: AYE

Mr. Adams: AYE

Mr. Wade: AYE

XIV. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Wade and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh



Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator