



BOOK 40
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**AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Board of Supervisors

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

MINUTES

February 3, 2026
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 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Tom Martin, Chair
Chris Adams, Vice-Chair (Participated Electronically)
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor
Frank Campbell, Supervisor

ABSENT:

Claudia D. Tucker, Supervisor

STAFF:

Jeremy S. Bryant, County Administrator
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 3:03 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 Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board voted to allow Vice-Chair Martin to participate electronically.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda with the amendment of removing Item A. Gateway Project Financing under New Business and replacing it with a new item A. Resolution 2026-1-R Opposition to Proposed House Bill 1377.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Martin led the Invocation and Supervisor Pugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Ordinance - First Read

A. Ordinance 2026-2 Town Precinct

The Board is being asked to approve the creation of a new voting precinct for Town of Amherst residents. By creating this new voting precinct, it would eliminate the need for 2 ballot styles in the current Courthouse Precinct (201).

Currently, the Courthouse Precinct (201) contains the Town of Amherst voters, which requires there to be 2 ballot styles when the election includes Town only races. By creating this new voting precinct, it would eliminate the need for 2 ballot styles in the current Courthouse Precinct (201). This will ensure that voters receive the correct ballot style. The local governing body is responsible for establishing and relocating polling places; this must be done by passing an ordinance. As of 11/10/25, there are 1,662 registered voters within the Town of Amherst.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to advertise Ordinance 2026-2 for public hearing for February 17, 2026.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

VI. Consent Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for February 3, 2026.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

A. Minutes - January 20, 2026

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of January 20, 2026.

B. Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Appropriation

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of the grant revenue received in the amount of \$57,975.00 from the Opioid Abatement Authority Individual Distribution.

C. Grant Letter of Match Commitment - SEID Grant

It was moved that the Board direct the County Administrator to sign the letter of Match Commitment.

VII. New Business

A. Gateway Project Financing

Item was removed by Agenda Amendment and replaced with Item A. Resolution 2026-1-R Opposition to Proposed House Bill 1377. (See Attachment 1)

By motion of Supervisor Campbell and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2026-1-R as presented.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

B. Ambulance Grant Approval

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved staff's acceptance of the 50/50 matching grant from the Virginia Office of EMS in the amount of \$150,000. The Board further approves the use of \$107,311.80 remaining from the FY26 ambulance purchase allocation and the use of approximately \$60,000 from funds transferred to the County following the closure of the Amherst Life Saving Crew.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

C. CVTC SMART Scale Options

VA Route 210 (Old Town Connector) from VA Route 163 (Amherst Highway) to the US 29 interchange currently operates in a satisfactory manner but experiences some safety issues along the corridor. Potential development would likely result in operational challenges that would need to be addressed. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has identified alternatives for the connector road to the Central Virginia Training Center (CVTC) site and has noted additional potential areas of impact. Funding must be identified to advance any improvements discussed in this study.

This study provides three alternatives for a new connector road between the CVTC and Route 210, including three preliminary alignment options and estimated cost ranges for each alternative. In addition, the study evaluates existing operational and safety conditions on Route 210 from Amherst Highway to the US 29 interchange, including crash analysis, traffic forecasting, and detailed operational analysis. In each scenario, a new signal would likely be required at the intersection of Route 210 and the proposed connector road.

Staff intends to apply for SMARTscale funding to build the connect road. This application does not require any funding from the locality.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board tabled this item until their February 17, 2026 meeting.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

VIII. County Attorney's Report

A. Vape Shops Discussion

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to ask the Planning Commission to draft an Ordinance concerning vape shops.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker

IX. Departmental Reports

A. Economic Development Authority Board- Annual Report

Andrew Proctor, Economic Development Authority Board Chair, gave the board an annual report. (See Attachment 2)

X. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XI. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Campbell had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matter to discuss.

Vice-Chair Adams had no matter to discuss.

Chairman Martin had no matter to discuss.

XII. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 3:39 pm.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mrs. Tucker



Tom Martin, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator

Attachment 1



Amherst County Board of Supervisors
County Resolution No. 2026-1-R

For consideration on February 3, 2026

A RESOLUTION, NO. 2026-1-R

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED HOUSE BILL 1377 WHICH WOULD CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A STATE-SPONSORED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Approved as to form by the County Attorney

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

- I. That the Amherst County Board of Supervisors ("Board") is in opposition to proposed House Bill 1377.**

WHEREAS, House Bill 1377 has been introduced in the 2026 General Assembly Session which in sum creates a task force to determine whether the Virginia Military Institute should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute (hereinafter "VMI") was founded in 1839 as America's first state-sponsored and -supported military college and is the oldest public senior military college in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the concept and design of VMI and its founding principles were developed and adopted by the citizens of Rockbridge County in 1839 lead by Rockbridge Resident J.T.L Preston and later became the standard of the citizen-soldier throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with its founding principles and unlike any other Senior Military College in the United States, VMI enrolls cadets only, awards bachelor's degrees exclusively, and grants degrees in disciplines in engineering, science, and the liberal arts; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of existence many of which have served the United States of America in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marine Corps, including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

WHEREAS, VMI is the only Virginia Institution of Higher education with a State Cadet program that graduates citizen-soldiers to work directly for the Commonwealth and benefit all citizens, and has produced leaders in the military, medicine, law, education, engineering, and business; and

WHEREAS, VMI and the VMI Family are treasured and essential parts of Rockbridge County's society and economy; and

WHEREAS, VMI has more than proven itself worthy of the Commonwealth of Virginia's investment of public funds in producing citizen-soldiers who have served the Commonwealth and the Republic of the United States of America for over 186 years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Amherst County Board of Supervisors that it states and confirms its strong opposition to House Bill 1377 which proposes to create a task force to determine if VMI should continue to be a state-sponsored institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and accordingly urges the General Assembly to reject said legislation, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

Adopted this February 3, 2026.



Tom Martin, Chair
Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia

ATTEST:



Jeremy S. Bryant, Clerk
Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia

Ayes 4

Nays 0

Abstentions 0

The mission of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) of Amherst County is to promote economic development policies and practices that help retain the county's existing businesses and employment base; facilitate the growth of existing commercial and industrial enterprises; and attract new businesses and employment opportunities. Success in this mission will result in high-quality jobs and a stable and diverse tax base that increases the quality of life of Amherst County residents.



The EDA purchased the 545-acre Dillard Industrial Site using an \$850,000 Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) grant and matching funds from the Board of Supervisors, positioning the site to attract a major capital investment and well-paying jobs. The EDA also secured an additional \$414,502 grant to design critical infrastructure improvements – including road access, water tank, and sewer system upgrades, further advancing the site's readiness for development. This work positions the Dillard property as a premier greenfield opportunity and reflects the EDA's commitment to job creation and expanding Amherst County's taxable investment base.

Managing 11 active business incentives

Site Readiness Grants

The EDA purchased the Dillard Property

Amazon Distribution Center

Amazon Opening Soon



An Amazon last-mile distribution center is under construction in the Amelon Commerce Center and is expected to open by early summer. This project will strengthen the county's tax base, provide jobs, and reinforce the industrial park's long-term value.



Leadership Amherst continued to support workforce and leadership development in 2025 by providing hands-on learning and exposure to local issues and resources. Six participants completed the program, strengthening leadership capacity and community connections across Amherst County.

Economic Development

Average Weekly Wages

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

