



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

April 7, 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 April 7, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Tom Martin, Chair
Chris Adams, Vice-Chair
Frank Campbell, Supervisor
Claudia D. Tucker, Supervisor

ABSENT:

David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor

STAFF:

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

Chair Martin 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 Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Martin led the Invocation and VicePledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

Ronnie Staton, District 5, addressed the Board regarding the proposed tax rate as well as concerns

Mark Labadie, District 2, expressed his concerns with federal and local government.

V. Consent Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for April 7, 2026.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

A. Minutes - March 17, 2026 Budget Workshop

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of March 17, 2026 Budget Workshop.

B. Minutes - March 17, 2026

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of March 17, 2026.

C. Minutes - March 25, 2026 Budget Workshop

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of March 25, 2026 Budget Workshop.

D. Minutes - March 25, 2026 Tax Rate Public Hearing

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of March 25, 2026 Tax Rate Public Hearing.

E. ARPA Funds Appropriation

It was moved that the Board approved the requested appropriation of \$453,091.58 from the ARPA funds reserve to reimburse Amherst Service Authority for infrastructure related projects.

F. Appropriation Request-Insurance Claim

It was moved that the Board approved the requested appropriation in the amount of \$9,715.85 which is reimbursement from the County's insurance provider to cover expenses related to a submitted claim as incurred by the Building Maintenance Department.

VI. New Business

A. Emergency Operation Plan

Every four years, the Board of Supervisors is required to adopt an updated Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board adopted the revised Emergency Operations Plan as presented and authorize the Director of Emergency Management, or his/her designee, to maintain and revise it as necessary during the next four (4) years or until otherwise before the Board again for review and adoption.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

B. Request for Letter Opposing HB 891 and SB 443

HB 891 and SB 443, as written, would allow battery energy storage systems (BESS) to be permitted as accessory uses on parcels previously approved for utility-scale solar development without additional local land use review, public input, or a required siting agreement. It is also important to note that the legislation in question would result in BESS being a "by-right" use on any parcel that the County should approve for solar going forward.

The Planning Commission is concerned that this legislation would significantly limit local authority over land use decisions and could create several challenges for localities, including:

- Reduced local oversight of battery energy storage installations.
- Increased demands on local staff and emergency services to address environmental, fire, and safety considerations.
- Elimination of siting agreements that help mitigate impacts and offset local costs.
- Removal of opportunities for adjacent property owners and residents to participate in the review process.

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to draft and submit a letter to the Office of the Governor requesting the veto of HB 891 and SB 443.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

C. VDOT Rural Rustic Six Year Road Plan

VDOT is going through an internal process to validate all its FY27-FY32 plans and seeks locality concurrence based on a public hearing.

By motion of Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to schedule the Public Hearing on May 19, 2026.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

D. Resolution 2026-4-R, Opioid Settlement

A new national opioid settlement has been reached with six regional distributors/dispenser defendants collectively referred to as the "Remnant Defendants". The proposed settlement will result in the six Remnant Defendants paying a combined \$97,625,000.00 in cash for purposes of abating the opioid epidemic. This will result in a one-time settlement payment to Amherst County as an eligible entity in the litigation action. The calculation used to allocate funds between eligible entities is the same model used for prior settlements. The County Attorney has reviewed the recommendation of outside counsel to participate in this settlement and concurs with the recommendation. In order to effectuate inclusion in the settlement, the attached resolution will need to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2026-4-R as presented.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

E. Resolution 2026-5-R, Collective Bargaining

On March 27, 2026, Members of the Virginia Association of Counties Board of Directors sent all local government administrative officials an urgent request to immediately begin advocating to Governor Spanberger that she should veto the mandatory collective bargaining legislation that has been approved by the General Assembly and is before her for approval. The legislation before her would impose significant risks for localities as it relates to fiscal stability and would fundamentally alter the long-standing authority of local elected officials to determine whether collective bargaining procedures are appropriate for the particular jurisdiction. Such a mandate would impose substantial and unpredictable costs on localities, would limit flexibility in budgeting and service delivery.

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2026-5-R as presented.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

F. Resolution 2026-6-R, Building Safety Month

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council and serves to raise awareness of the critical role building safety professionals play in ensuring the safety, sustainability, and resilience of the built environment. Adoption of this proclamation affirms the County's support for safe construction practices and recognizes the contributions of those who work year-round to protect the public through the enforcement of building and fire prevention codes.

By motion of Supervisor Campbell and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2026-6-R as presented.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

G. Greening of Amherst County Public Libraries

For Information Only.

The library has partnered with the James River Association to develop plans to "green" both library locations, with a focus on improving stormwater management and incorporating native plants to beautify the spaces and make them more environmentally friendly. The James River Association has secured a grant to create the two conceptual plans presented here. The intent is to continue pursuing additional grant funding for future engineering studies and eventual implementation. No county funding is required at this time or is anticipated for any portion of this project moving forward.

VII. County Administrator's Report

A. Boards/Commissions/Committees - Planning Commission District 4 Vacancy

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board appointed Mr. Bill Wise to serve the remainder of a term ending August 31, 2026.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh

Mr. Wise does not reside in District 3. However, due to a lack of interest from citizens in District 4, the Board agreed to allow Mr. Wise to serve on the Planning Commission in the District 3 seat.

VIII. County Attorney's Report

A. Proposed Towing Advisory Board Information

At its regular meeting of March 17, 2026, the Board requested that the County Attorney provide the Board with additional information related to the proposed creation of a Towing Advisory Board. Attached to this agenda item is proposed by-laws for the creation of such a board, along with a draft ordinance and proposed policy. The development of these materials is based on the County Attorney's review of several other locality materials (Spotsylvania, Stafford, Loudon, Blacksburg, Covington, etc.).

It was the consensus of the Board to bring this matter back at their July 21, 2026 meeting.

IX. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Planning Commission - Chris Adams

Vice-Chair Adams reported that there was nothing significant to report. He said at the last Planning Commission meeting the discussion was regarding building heights in the industrial zoned areas. Mr. Creasy spoke and stated with the direction of the Commission staff has met with the Building Official and Chief Beam and Jarred Scott to come up with an ordinance to increase height restrictions and put in regulations for those buildings to meet fire and building code.

X. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XI. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Tucker requested the meeting adjourn today in honor of a recently deceased member of the community, Gary Ramsey.

Supervisor Campbell had no matters to discuss.

Vice-Chair Adams had no matters to discuss.

Chairman Martin had no matters to discuss.

XII. Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Campbell and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 4:21 pm.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh



Tom Martin, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator