



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

June 2, 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 June 2, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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

ABSENT: None

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 with the amendment to move Section VIII. New Business before Section VI. Ordinance - First Read.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Citizen Comment

Samantha Salvi, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Mark May, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Steve Walthall, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

James Curtis, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Amber Lissy, District 2, played a video recording from Financial Sense opposing data centers.

Mark Labadie, District 2, addressed the Board regarding his opposition to data centers and made comments regarding a recent social media post by Claudia Tucker.

Barbar Pryor, District 3, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Kenneth Thompson, District 4, questioned the Board on who owns the property on Kings Road and who will benefit if the property was developed, he also gave the Board a receipt from a metal company that he asked them to look at.

Carol Elkins, District 5, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Alex Grieve, District was not known, addressed the Board on data centers and items he felt should be considered with them.

Charlene Tisver, District not known, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Kyle Murphy, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Steve McCanna, District 2, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Denise Jones, District 5, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Ben Jonas, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Jones Stanley, District 3, addressed the Board regarding some daily things that AI does for us on a daily basis.

Glenn Fleshman, District 4, told the Board to put a data center in their backyard.

Cameron Day, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Angie Coleman, District 4, addressed the Board regarding concerns and opposition to data centers.

Becky Henry, District 4, addressed the Board, stating that as long as the property on Kings Road stays by right, there is no community engagement per protocol.

V. Consent Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for June 2, 2026.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

A. Minutes - May 19, 2026

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of May 19, 2026.

B. Appropriation Request-Parks and Recreation

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of money collected for program fees and ticket sales to cover the associated expenses.

C. Visitor Center Lease Agreement with Chamber of Commerce

It was moved that the Board direct the County Administrator to sign the new lease agreement for the Amherst County Chamber of Commerce to use the Amherst County Visitor Center.

D. Appropriation Request - VJCCCA

It was moved that the Board approve the requested appropriation of additional State funds provided for juvenile outreach services.

E. Appropriation Request - Clerk of Court

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation request of State-funded grant funds to cover the expense associated with the preservation grant.

F. Appropriations to Fire & EMS for FY26

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation request of funds to the operating budget as indicated.

VI. Ordinance - First Read

A. Ordinance 2026-4 (Height Restrictions and Yard Requirements M-1 District)

Amending and reenacting the Amherst County Code by amending and reenacting Appendix A, Zoning and Subdivisions, Article VIII, Other Requirements of Zoning Districts, Section 803, Maximum Height Restrictions and Section 804, Minimum Yard Requirements. The purpose of the ordinance is to increase the allowable height of structures to one hundred and twenty-five feet (125') within the M-1, Industrial District, and to provide additional setbacks and regulations.

By motion of Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed staff to send the Ordinance back to the Planning Commission to rework the setback requirements.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VII. Special Presentation

A. State Legislative Updates

The Board received information from staff regarding new legislation that affects the County's zoning and subdivision ordinance.

VIII. New Business

A. Appropriation of the School's FY2024-2025 Deferred Revenue

Amherst County Public Schools is requesting the appropriation of \$710,245.89 in FY2024-2025 revenue that was deferred to the current school year. Due to the pending expiration of these funds, the division is unable to postpone this request until the completion of the county audit.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board appropriated \$710,245.89 of additional revenue to the 2025-2026 School Operational Budget.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

B. Appropriation of the School's Year End Funds

Amherst County Public Schools is requesting the appropriation of \$740,000 in additional revenue to the current year's budget. This appropriation would facilitate the transfer of year-end funds to the School Division's operational budget to support the purchase of two (2) school buses, one truck, and funding for the Division's health insurance plan.

These expenditures are typically supported through the operational budget; however, due to current budget constraints, the Division's adopted budget included the use of prior-year excess funds to accommodate these expenditures.

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board appropriated \$740,000 in additional revenue to the 2025-2026 School Operational Budget and approved the transfer of these funds from the Division's year-end fund balance.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

C. Appropriation of Revenue - Amherst County Public Schools

The Board was asked to appropriate additional revenue to the 2025-2026 School Operational Budget.

Amherst County Public Schools received notification of additional funding, including authorization to utilize carryover grant funds, totaling \$1,628,750.08 (\$1,104,258.16 and \$524,491.92). In addition to the use of carryover grant funds, these additional revenues resulted from newly awarded grants and increased Medicaid reimbursements received by the Division.

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board appropriated \$1,628,750.08 of additional revenue to the 2025-2026 School Operational Budget.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

D. Data Center Discussion

The Board is being updated on a previous discussion about data centers.

At the May 19 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board directed staff to add an item on the agenda for a data center discussion. Staff will inform the Board that the Planning Commission is looking into regulations as it pertains to data centers. At the moment, data centers are a permitted use in the M-1 Industrial Zoning District.

Vice-Chair Adams asked Mr. Creasy to update the Board on the Planning Commission's discussion at its last meeting regarding this matter.

By motion of Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board directed staff and the Planning Commission to draft, act on, and forward to the Board of Supervisors by August of 2026 a proposed Ordinance regulating data centers in the M1 Industrial Zoning by special use permit.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

E. Road Naming (Elon Forest Subdivision)

The Board is being asked to approve the road name "Willow Creek Way," which will be located within Elon Forest Phase Two, adjacent to River Road. The request has been submitted by the owner/developer, and there has been no opposition to the proposed road name. A formal request is included in your packet. Approximately ten lots are planned for development along this roadway.

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved the road name "Willow Creek Way" for the new roadway located within Elon Forest Phase Two adjacent to River Road, as requested by the owner/developer and outlined in the materials provided within the Board packet.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

IX. County Administrator's Report

A. Appointment of the New FOIA Officer

Per § 2.2-3704.2 of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended), public bodies are to designate a FOIA officer. All local public bodies and regional public bodies shall designate and publicly identify one or more Freedom of Information Act officers (FOIA officer) whose responsibility is to serve as a point of contact for members of the public in requesting public records and to coordinate the public body's compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

By motion of Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board appointed Alexandra Doss, Administrative Assistant, to the position of FOIA Officer for the County.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

X. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney had no matter to discuss.

XI. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Planning Commission - Chris Adams

Vice-Chair Adams stated that at the last Planning Commission meeting the Commission had a lengthy discussion on vape shops per the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Adams reported that Sheriff Ayers and Major Begley were present and provided a lot of worthwhile information to help the Planning Commission move forward with some direction on how to manage the vape shops. Mr. Adams also stated there was some discussion regarding regulation of RVs and time parameters on properties.

XII. Citizen Comment

Mark Labadie, District 1, commented on Alexandra Doss and how professional she has been to work with on FOIA requests. Mr. Labadie then made a FOIA request for "all data regarding the grant that was given to the EDA relative to the purchasing of the Dillard property." Mr. Labadie also commented on his opposition to the county's procurement of real estate.

XIII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Tucker had no matters to discuss.

Supervisor Campbell had no matters to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matters to discuss.

Vice-Chair Adams asked the County Administrator to speak to Mr. Robert Brown with VDOT to see if anything can be done from the jersey barrier all the way up to Lowe's on both sides where the dirt and debris has accumulated.

Chairman Martin had no matters to discuss.

XIV. Closed Session

- A. A closed session for the limited purpose of consultation with legal counsel retained by the Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel related to the Winton property pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia (1950, as amended).

Supervisor Tucker motioned to go into closed session and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

- B. A closed session for the limited purpose of discussing a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business's intent to locate in the county pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia.

Supervisor Tucker motioned to go into closed session and was approved with the following vote:

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell
ABSENT: None

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

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Adams, and Mrs. Tucker
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell
ABSENT: None

Supervisor Pugh and Supervisor Campbell did not go into closed session for Item B.

XV. Certification of Closed Session
CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING ITEM A.

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.

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

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING ITEM B.

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.

Mr. Martin: AYE
Mr. Adams: AYE
Mr. Pugh: NAY
Mr. Campbell: NAY
Mr. Tucker: AYE

XVI. Adjournment

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 6:06 pm.

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



Tom Martin, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant, County Administrator