



BOOK 40
Page 74-79



**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 16, 2026

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 June 16, 2026, at 7:00 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
James Benkahla, County Attorney
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chair Martin 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 Campbell and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Citizen Comment

Kevin Wittman, District 2, addressed the Board with comments on data centers and on an interview Supervisor Tucker gave on WLNI Radio.

Jim Curtis, District 4, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Steve Walthall, District 4, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Fred Fitzsimmons, District 1, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers and water concerns associated with data centers.

Robin Jones, District 3, stated that no one in Amherst County wants a data center except Supervisor Tucker.

Samantha Salvi, District 4, addressed the Board with concerns and comments on data centers as well as asking the Board consider a moratorium on data centers in Amherst County.

Jeanette Arrington, District 3, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Amy Wiley, District 5, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Bob Beau, District 3, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers and concerns over property values.

Mark May, District 4, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Charlie Tisver, District was not known by the resident and the address was not provided, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers and asking the Board to place a moratorium or ban on data centers in Amherst County.

Ann Dickerson, District 3, addressed the Board regarding an easement the county has across her property for an emergency pump service should there be a drought situation where an emergency is declared. She stated the county was very open with them in deciding not put in a permanent pump and that openness was appreciated and she is asking for the same openness regarding a proposed data center and whether or not the county feels like it will need to use that spot as a permanent pumping station for water from the James to support infrastructure.

Tobey Thurston, District 1, addressed the Board asking that they listen to the citizens that trust them to run Amherst County.

David Sickman, Lynchburg resident, addressed the Board questioning the roles of the Board of Supervisors, EDA and Planning Commission and who answers to who and how the process goes.

Jamie O'Keffe, Lynchburg resident, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Lisa Jonas, District 4, addressed the Board reading the Amherst County Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use section.

Dennis Scruggs, District unknown by the resident, addressed the Board regarding comments made by Supervisor Tucker on a recent radio interview.

Mark Labadie, District 2, addressed the Board with comments on capital purchases of real estate by Amherst County and the EDA. He also made a FOIA request during this time for NDA relationship and procurement information.

V. Public Hearing

A. Special Exception 2026-189 Norman and Lisa Black

Request by Norman and Lisa Black for a special exception request in the Route 130 Overlay District. The purpose of the special exception is to allow a manufactured home. The property is zoned A-1 Agricultural Residential District and located at tax map number 103-3-4.

Recommended Conditions:

1. The site shall be developed in general conformance with the illustrative drawing depicting the location of the well, drainfield and house that is part of the submitted application dated April 2, 2026.
2. The proposed driveway shall meet all fire access requirements as prescribed by the County's Fire Marshall prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
3. A twenty (20') foot vegetative buffer shall remain along the front property line that fronts along Route 130 (Elon Road). This requirement shall not hinder the property owner's ability to install a driveway and any applicable utilities.

The applicants addressed the Board.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

The Public Hearing was closed.

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board approved Special Exception 2026-189 with the listed conditions.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VI. Consent Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Campbell and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for June 16, 2026.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

A. Minutes - June 2, 2026

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of June 2, 2026.

B. Appropriation of Revenue - Commonwealth Attorney

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of funds from the State Compensation Board in the amount of \$14,280.00 to the Commonwealth's Attorney's budget as presented.

C. Appropriation of Revenue - Commonwealth Attorney

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of funds from the State Compensation Board in the amount of \$7,334.10 to the Commonwealth's Attorney's budget as presented.

D. Appropriation of Funds-Service Authority ARPA Project Reimbursement

It was moved that the Board approve the requested appropriation of \$43,895.75 from the ARPA funds reserve to reimburse the Amherst County Service Authority for infrastructure related projects.

E. Appropriation of ARPA Funds-Virginia Telecommunications Initiative Project

It was moved that the Board approved the requested appropriation of \$1,066,986.39 from the ARPA funds reserve to cover Amherst County's match for the Fire Fly Broadband throughout Amherst County.

F. Resolution 2026-15-R CDBG

It was moved that the Board adopt Resolution 2026-15-R as presented.

VII. County Administrator's Report

The County Administrator had nothing to report.

VIII. County Attorney's Report

James Benkahla stated that he had no report but did have a response to Chair Martins' earlier question about a possible moratorium on data centers. Mr. Benkahla stated that counties only have the authority that the state gives them to enact laws, and that he is not aware of any authority that would allow the county to place a moratorium on a specific land use.

IX. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Agriculture Committee - Claudia Tucker

Supervisor Tucker reported that the Agriculture Committee is currently working on a farm tour which should happen this fall at Mt. Pleasant farm. The Committee is working on getting specific speakers there to discuss safety, how to move cattle, fencing and more. She stated they also had discussion on the Century Farm Program which is provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia and making people aware of how to apply for designation. She reported that the Agriculture Committee has an interest in doing a Amherst version of the Century Farm Program which involves working with the County for farms less than 100 years old to give them a certain designation for that.

X. Citizen Comment

Sky Pacot, District 4, addressed the Board challenging the attorney's opinion regarding a moratorium on data centers.

Mark Labadie, District 2, addressed the Board with comments on the site on Kings Road.

Britney Opoka, District 2, addressed the Board asking for a county-wide moratorium or ban on data centers.

Tobey Thurston, District 1, addressed the Board asking citizens to volunteer for the County Fair.

Jacob Aliff, District 5, addressed the Board with comments and concerns on data centers.

Lisa Jonas, District 4, addressed the Board with comments on a proposed height requirement change Ordinance.

Jim Curtis, District 4, addressed the Board regarding data centers and moratoriums.

Savannah Wittman, District 2, addressed the Board with comments opposing data centers.

Amy Wiley, District 5, addressed the Board stating that Amherst County is beautiful and she would like to keep it that way.

Jamie O'Keffe, Lynchburg resident, with comments and concerns of pollution to our land and rivers with development including data centers.

XI. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Tucker had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Campbell stated that a few meetings ago he had brought up VA State Code 15.2-1201.2 regarding discounts on early tax payments, he requested that it be put on a future agenda for discussion. Mr. Campbell also stated that the County hires two cleaning companies and that he believes they are paid nearly half a million dollars and that there is food that has been on the floor underneath the Dias for two weeks and not been cleaned up and he is concerned about what the county is getting for its money, he requested that it be looked into and also put on an agenda for further discussion.

Supervisor Pugh stated he felt that the Board had taken a good step at its last meeting to put the Dillard tract forward to the Planning Commission to set it as a possible special exception and commented that Mr. Martin had asked legal counsel about the county's ability to place a moratorium on land uses, as we follow the Dillon Rule, as opposed to cities that are governed by their charters. Mr. Pugh stated that the county will be updating its Comprehensive Plan in the next year or two and that is an area where the citizens of the county can get involved and put their input into and it will guide the Board in their decisions on planning and zoning in the coming years.

Vice-Chair Adams had no matter to discuss.

Chairman Martin stated that one of the citizens had commented on the filling of streams and wetlands and he would like more information on that. He also stated that the Board had directed the Planning Commission to have a draft Ordinance back to them by August and asked staff and the attorney, if someone submitted a site plan today for a data center how long does the county have to review it. Mr. Creasy and Mr. Bryant provided information on that question. Mr. Martin then asked staff to provide more information on a moratorium. He also asked the Board if they would like to hold or cancel the July 7th meeting. The Board decided to cancel.

By motion of Supervisor Pugh and with the following vote, the Board canceled the July 7, 2026 meeting.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

XII. Adjournment

By motion of Vice-Chair Adams and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 8:29 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