



VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE SURRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ON THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 AT 6:00 PM.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR., CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE, VICE-CHAIR
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM T. CALHOUN
SUPERVISOR WALTER HARDY
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ZARIAH HARRELL

ABSENT: SUPERVISOR AMY DREWRY

ALSO PRESENT: MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Invocation

The invocation was given by Chairman Elliott.

Call to Order/Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance/ Adopt Agenda

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Elliott, who then asked for a moment of silence. Following the moment of silence, he asked those present to stand and recite the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Elliott asked for Motion to accept the agenda. Supervisor Hardy made a motion to accept the agenda and Supervisor Pierce seconded the motion. All present voted affirmatively. (Approved)

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN	AYE
SUPERVISOR WALTER HARDY	AYE
SUPERVISOR AMY DREWRY	ABSENT

Consent Items

1. Sussex Service Authority – FY 25-26 Contract
2. Accounts Payable – April 2025 – 1,203,450.19

Chairman Elliott read the items listed for consent and asked Board members if any items needed to be pulled for discussion. There being none, Supervisor Hardy made a motion to approve the consent items as enumerated. Supervisor Pierce seconded the motion.

Vote (Approved):

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Elliott

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Drewry

Public Comments

1. Mike Eggleston, Dendron District – concerns regarding Board of Supervisors’ expenses and transparency in accounting
2. Daniel Shaye, Surry District – concerns regarding prejudice and distrust; called for unity and progress
3. Susan Corvello, Claremont District – concerns regarding FY 23-24 audit that has not been released to the public
4. Dr. Herbert Monroe, Superintendent of Surry County Public Schools – thanked Ms. Rollins and the Board of Supervisors for contributing to their successful Student Government Day; announced the Class of 2025 would be celebrated on May 31, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Luther Porter Jackson Middle school; expressed condolences for the loss of Ms. Laura Ruffin, a lifelong supporter of their school division. Requested the Board to lower the flags at their school buildings to half-staff as a way to honor Ms. Ruffin.

Presentations

1. Smithfield Riverside Hospital – Jessica Macalino, Hospital President, gave a presentation on the future of healthcare across Isle of Wight and Surry Counties, including details Riverside Health and Smithfield Hospital.
Supervisor Hardy noted how important it was to have a healthcare facility located nearby for their residents, as well as providing employment opportunities for their local healthcare workers. He thanked Ms. Macalino for her organization’s support of Surry County.

Public Hearings

1. FY 25-26 Proposed Budget: The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 25-26 Proposed Budget.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Presentation by Staff- Melissa Rollins, County Administrator, provided a brief overview of the FY 25-26 budget.
- III. Open the Floor for Public Comments - Chairman Elliot opened the public hearing.
- IV. Public Comment Period
 1. Susan Corvello, Claremont District –confusion regarding discrepancies between the County Administrator’s presented information and the published proposed budget
 2. Helen Eggleston, Dendron District–concern regarding the high level of debt the County was carrying, considering their small population
 3. Mike Eggleston, Dendron District –concern regarding the lack of realities the budget was addressing; requested the Board to reconsider their strategy in this budget
 4. Daniel Shaye, Surry District – concern regarding debt funding; however, thanked the Board for their work in developing this budget
 5. Dianne Cheek, Surry District – recognized and thanked the Board of Supervisors, Treasurer’s Office, and Commissioner of the Revenue’s Office for developing this

budget; also requested the Board support the Clerk of the Court in their work of preserving historical records of Surry County

6. Sharnae White, Carsley District – requested the Board to consider the needs of future generations of Surry County in their planning and budgeting
- V. Public Comments Closed – Chairman Elliott closed the public hearing.
- VI. Closing Remarks by Staff – Ms. Rollins stated that she had nothing further to add.
- VII. Board Comments – Supervisor Pierce thanked the public for speaking at today's hearing and thanked staff for their hard work and diligence on this budget.
- VIII. Chairman Elliott closed the public hearing.

New Business

1. VDOT Quarterly Report – Christopher Carroll, Virginia Department of Transportation Residency Administrator, provided VDOT's first quarterly report of 2025, including completed and upcoming projects.

Chairman Elliott thanked Mr. Carroll for his responsiveness to questions and for his hard work in improving and maintaining the roads of Surry County. He requested that VDOT look into the condition of Jones Road to see if improvements were necessary.

Supervisor Calhoun thanked Mr. Carroll for the update. He asked if VDOT was working on Swan's Point Road. Mr. Carroll said that yes; the improvements were only for a little over a mile of road, so it should be a short duration of work.

Supervisor Pierce – expressed his appreciation for Mr. Carroll's presentation, his responses to questions from the Board, and for the addition of photos to his presentation so everyone could see the important work VDOT was doing in the County.

2. VDOT Six Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan (FY 26-31) – Frances Bailey, Planning Technician, provided a brief overview of the FY 26-31 Six Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan.

3.

Board Action: Chairman Elliott asked for motion on the VDOT Six Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan for FY 26-31. Supervisor Pierce moved for approval of the **proposed VDOT Six Year Secondary Road Improvement Plan for FY 26-31**, and authorize the submission of the Resolution supporting the proposed allocations of the six year period totaling \$116,509. Supervisor Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 4:0 (Approved)

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Elliott

Nays:

Absent: Ms. Drewry

Board Comments

Supervisor Hardy – stated that he was looking forward to tomorrow's First Fridays on the Lawn. He encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the event. He thanked everyone for the presentations tonight and the citizens who gave comments at tonight's meeting. He emphasized it was important for their citizens to fully research any information they receive in order to accurately assess its validity.

Supervisor Calhoun – thanked the public for their comments this evening and for the presenters’ enlightening reports. He stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone tomorrow at First Fridays.

Supervisor Pierce – thanked everyone for attending tonight’s meeting and for providing public comments for the Board’s edification. He noted that it had been a busy month, with many community events including the Community Day at Surry County Public Schools and the unveiling of the “LOVE” sign. He emphasized that the Board and staff were doing their due diligence and listening to citizens’ concerns to ensure their plans were representative of all their constituents. He reminded everyone that May 31, 2025 would be the graduation date of the Surry County Public Schools’ Class of 2025, a momentous occasion marking the beginning of the next steps of their young community members’ lives.

Chairman Elliott – requested the flags be flown at half-staff at their school division buildings tomorrow in order to honor Ms. Laura Ruffin and her many years of dedicated service to the youth of their community.

Board Action: Chairman Elliott asked for motion to approve the request to fly the flags at half-staff in honor of Ms. Laura Ruffin.

Supervisor Pierce moved for approval of the request to fly the County’s flags at half-staff on Friday, May 2, in remembrance of Ms. Laura Ruffin. Supervisor Calhoun seconded the motion.

Vote: 4:0 (Approved)

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Elliott

Nays:

Absent: Ms. Drewry

Chairman Elliott thanked the Board for approving the request. He stated that additionally, he would like to give the County Attorney the opportunity to address concerns regarding transparency and misinformation.

Lola Perkins, County Attorney, explained that with regard to the delay in completion of the audit, a notice had been posted on the County’s website with the extension of the date until April 1, then another notice extended it until July 1, 2025. Additionally, those notices had been posted in the public notices cabinet in the Government Center. She assured all the Board members that they were currently in compliance with the requirements of Virginia Code.

Chairman Elliott thanked Ms. Perkins for that explanation. He further thanked the public for all their comments made during tonight’s meeting. He noted that today, he had the honor to join in the National Day of Prayer Walk in Surry County, which included a diverse mix of individuals from throughout the County who came together in fellowship with one another to pray. He thanked staff for the great job in unveiling the “LOVE” sign at the front of the Government Center. He noted that tomorrow would be the first concert in their First Fridays series, which was a great opportunity to participate in the community and build relationships to ensure they lived in unity.

County Administrator's Report

1. Ms. Rollins thanked the County team members who participated in the employee cleanup event yesterday, during which they cleaned up litter from the Emergency Operations Center driveway to Hollybush Road. She additionally thanked Mr. Lorenzo Turner in the Planning Department for leading those efforts this year.

2. Ms. Rollins thanked the County team members for preparing their grounds for tomorrow's event.
3. Ms. Rollins clarified that although she appreciated a citizen thanking her for creating the goals in this year's budget, those goals actually were the strategic goals of the Board of Supervisors, which drove the budget's development.

Reports

1. Inspections Performed by District – March 2025
2. Building Official's Office Monthly Report – March 2025

For Your Information

There was none.

Adjournment

Chairman Elliott asked for a motion for adjournment to May 8.

Supervisor Pierce moved, and Supervisor Hardy seconded.

Vote (Approved):

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Elliott

Nays: None

Absent: Ms. Drewry

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the Surry County Government Website:

<https://www.surrycountyva.gov/387/Watch-A-Meeting>