



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, OCTOBER 2, AT 6:00 PM.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DELON BROWN, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MS. ROBIN FAULKS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
MS. SHARNA' WHITE, REGISTRAR
MS. VALARIE PIERCE, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
MS. RENEE CHAPLIN, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AUTHORITY
MR. DARRYL RAWLINGS, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
MS. LAJUNE STONE, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Invocation

The invocation was given by Reverend Douglas Charity of Ferguson Grove Baptist Church

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 noted that there were two amendments proposed for the agenda, the first to remove Item 3 from the Consent Agenda and the second to remove the Closed Session from tonight's meeting agenda. With those amendments and if there were no further questions, he asked for motion to accept the agenda. Supervisor Bell made a motion to accept the agenda and Supervisor Hardy 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

Consent Items

1. Approval of Draft Minutes – 09/11/2025

2. Resolution – Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2025

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 Bell made a motion to approve the consent items as enumerated. Supervisor Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote 5:0 (Approved):

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Public Comments

Lola Perkins, County Attorney, read the rules of procedure for public comment.

1. Susan Corvello, Claremont District – requested response to previous inquiry about County's bid page, inquired about when to receive Board meeting materials and presentations, and suggested public comment be moved to the end of the agenda
2. Charlome Pierce, Bacon's Castle District – expressed support for public comments at the beginning of the meeting prior to Board action on agenda items; urged this Board to work with the Planning Commission on comprehensive planning and responsible strategic development in the County; noted that it was the 50th Anniversary of Surry County High School
3. Daniel Shaye, Surry District – discussed public comment period as a limited public forum and the associated restrictions and permissions

New Business

1. Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates – FYE 6.30.24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Melissa Rollins, County Administrator, introduced the item. She welcomed Mr. Jay Sanudo, who would provide the County's audit for the period ending June 30, 2024. She noted that there was a required action from the Board to decide whether to accept the audit report. Jay Sanudo, CPA and Partner with Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates, provided the report of the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 for Surry County. He summarized that the audit opinion for the County was unmodified, meaning the financial statements were materially correct. He then provided details on the finances of the County. He noted that the single finding he would bring to the Board's attention was regarding bank reconciliations being complete and timely, a repeated comment from the prior year. He also provided a management letter as part of this report, which had more information on that single finding and their recommendation of reconciling bank accounts within no more than 30 days after the end of the month and reviewed by someone outside of the reconciliation process.

Chairman Elliott expressed his appreciation for the review of the finding. He asked if the finding regarding bank reconciliation had any other impact on the audit.

Mr. Sanudo replied that the only negative aspect was that it delayed the process of reviewing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 audit. Otherwise, the financial statements were substantially correct.

Mr. Pierce asked if it was correct that the County was in good financial standing.

Mr. Sanudo confirmed the County was in good standing with its finances. He added that he was currently working on the FY25 audit, which so far appeared to be in good standing as well.

Mr. Calhoun expressed concern that while action was requested by the Board on this item, he had not had adequate time to review the audit. He would ask for more time before accepting the results of the audit.

Ms. Rollins said that the action requested by the Board was to accept the audit results presented by Mr. Sanudo and Robinson, Farmer, Cox & Associates. She clarified that the Board had the opportunity to review the County's finances at any point.

Mr. Sanudo stated that it was a requirement of the Virginia APA for the Board to either accept or reject his presentation of the audit results. He said that if financial statements needed to be reissued, they were able to do so.

Chairman Elliott clarified that this action was to accept the results of the audit as presented tonight.

Mr. Sanudo confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Hardy asked Mr. Calhoun if he would have concern with approval of the report if he would have any opportunity to ask the auditors who would be returning in a couple of months. Mr. Calhoun said no.

Ms. Rollins added that now that the report had been presented, the normal procedure was to make the report available to the public and post to the County's website. She noted that one of the major schedules, the revenue and expenditures, was one of the easiest ways for the public to see the County's financial status and how it related to their budget.

Board Action: Chairman Elliott asked for motion to accept the FYE June 30, 2024 ACFR report. Supervisor Pierce moved for approval of **the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report** and Supervisor Hardy seconded the motion.

Vote: 5:0 (Approved)

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Presentations

1. Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Award for 55+ Initiative Program

Ms. Rollins introduced Mr. Gage Harter of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), to present the Achievement Award.

Gage Harter, Director of Communications for VACO, introduced himself and gave background information on the Virginia Association of Counties. He presented the VACO Achievement Award to Surry County for their 55+ Initiative Program. He noted that out of 155 entries for the award program, they selected only 57 entries, so this was a distinct achievement. This was Surry County's second Achievement Award, the first of which they shared with Sussex County in 2022 for the Shared Building Services Program. He sincerely congratulated the County on their receipt of this Award.

David Harrison, Deputy County Administrator, gave a brief synopsis of the 55+ Initiative Program. He explained that the Surry County 55+ Initiative was a collaboration between the Department of Social Services, Parks and Recreation, and Youth and Family Resources that provides a robust offering of events and programs for Surry County citizens ages 55 and older.

Valerie Pierce, Director of Social Services, expressed her gratitude for being one of the recipients for the VACO Achievement Award for their 55+ Initiative Program. This achievement represented their hard work, dedication, and collaboration for providing recreation to their 55+ community. She said that she was joined by the other department heads and employees who made this possible.

Tasha Judkins, Department of Social Services, announced the upcoming events for the rest of the year, which included Oktoberfest on October 25, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Grounds of Parks and Rec; Friendsgiving Dinner on Friday, November 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Luther Porter Jackson Elementary School; and the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., with the route going through the Town of Surry.

2. VDOT Quarterly Transportation Update

Rossie Carroll, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Residency Administrator, provided the VDOT Quarterly Transportation Update for the Quarter of July 1, 2025 to September 29, 2025. He reported on the work orders generated and completed, maintenance work accomplishments, and planning and upcoming work for the current quarter, including ditch cleaning, tree trimming, mowing, road resurfacing, Secondary Six-Year Plan (SSYP) projects, land use permitting reviews, and traffic studies.

Mr. Hardy clarified for the public that if citizens had transportation-related concerns, they should reach out to their District Supervisor, who could then present the information to the Surry County Highway Safety and Transportation Commission for review and further action through VDOT if necessary. He emphasized that there was an established process that worked effectively, and he encouraged the public to follow it for the best results.

Mr. Calhoun thanked Mr. Carroll for the report and commended VDOT for affirming the 25-mile-per-hour speed limit at Bank Street. He requested that VDOT look into the white stripes or the stop bars at the stoplight in town, which the Transportation Commission had discussed at their last meeting. He said that additionally, from the ferry going into town, where the speed limit dropped from 55 to 45 mph, there was some type of vegetative growth encroaching into the road that needed to be trimmed back so vehicles did not hit it.

Mr. Carroll confirmed he would look into those issues and they would remove the vegetation if possible.

County Administrator's Report

1. Ms. Rollins said that they would provide the Information Technology & Support Services Department Update at the Board's next meeting.
2. Ms. Rollins said that staff would provide the Parks and Recreation Department Update.

Darryl Rawlings, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the Parks and Recreation Department Update to the Board. He reported on recent improvements to Parks facilities, current programming, recent and upcoming activities and events, collaborations between Parks and Rec and other departments and agencies, and future planning in the Department.

LaJeune Stone, Director of Youth and Family Services, presented an update to the Board on the Surry Youth Life initiative. She reported on the progress of the program, which they started earlier in 2025 with a focus on children from pre-K to 4th grade. She reviewed the program's activities and events, the collaborative efforts between County departments, local businesses, and mentioned upcoming events and activities.

Board Comments

Ms. Harrell – acknowledged the Surry County High School students who participated in the Tire Art Competition with Future Farmers of America (FFA) at the State Fair. She reminded the public that their Homecoming would be held next week on October 10, 2025, and this year marked the historical milestone of 50 years of the high school. In celebration of this 50th Anniversary, there would be a Cougar Pride Exhibit for which alumni could donate their memorabilia for display. There was also a link for alumni to complete a survey and provide feedback to the school, which was available on the flyers provided at tonight's meeting. Also, any community members could give donations to the Decade Donation Sponsorship or the Alumni Artifact Contribution, which also had links available on the flyers. She said that finally, she thanked the community for their continuous support for the school system and County students.

Mr. Bell – thanked all the citizens who attended tonight's meeting, and he appreciated their dedication to their local government operations at each monthly meeting. He emphasized that he took all citizen comments to heart and made note of every topic brought up at their meetings, which would be taken into account for future business and they would try to ensure everyone's needs were met. He sincerely thanked Mr. Sanudo for the report on the County's audit, noting that it was a very extensive report and it was clear a lot of work went into it. He thanked Ms. Pierce for all her hard work on the 55+ Initiative, and he looked forward to the Christmas Parade. He announced that this coming Friday at 3:00 p.m. in the Town of Surry, they would hold their Homecoming Parade, and he invited everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities. He thanked Ms. Stone and Mr. Rawlings for all their hard work in their respective departments, and especially considering their limited staffing, it was seriously impressive that they were able to deliver the same quality and excellence of service to the community.

Mr. Hardy – announced that the second annual Board of Supervisors Veterans Appreciation Dinner would be held on Friday, November 7, 2025, and he was greatly looking forward to it as

it was a fantastic time last year. He congratulated staff on their 55+ Initiative Program's VACO Achievement Award. He thanked Parks and Rec and Youth and Family Services on doing such an outstanding job. He announced that tomorrow was the final First Fridays of the season, and he looked forward to seeing his fellow citizens at the Pavilion for a great evening of music and community. He reported that he had the opportunity to attend the candidate forum the other night, and he felt confident that they would be in good hands regardless of who won the open seats on the Board of Supervisors and School Board. He was impressed with the views and goals of the candidates, and he wished everyone luck. He said that regarding public comment, he wanted to encourage their citizens to reach out to their Supervisors; they did not need to wait a full month between Board meetings to voice concerns, give feedback, or immediately address any pressing issues. They were all available via email and phone. Finally, he wanted to recognize that October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and he wore pink in honor, praise and thanks to breast cancer survivors.

Mr. Calhoun – thanked all of tonight's presenters, including staff for all their hard work. He highly recommended everyone to try out pickleball with Parks and Rec, as it was great fun, effective exercise, and a great way to socialize. He thanked the citizens for attending the meeting, as the more people who participated, the better off they would be. He wished everyone a great evening.

Mr. Pierce – thanked everyone for coming out tonight and those watching from home. He seconded all the comments made by his fellow Supervisors regarding the Achievement Award and work in their departments. He reported that in September, he virtually attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Agricultural Rural Affairs Policy Steering Committee, and the discussion highlighted national concerns of rural communities including healthcare access, farmland preservation, renewable energy, and youth engagement. He noted that the discussion reaffirmed that Surry County had already taken action in many of these areas and was ahead of the curve compared to other rural counties throughout the country. He said that he wanted to reassure Surry citizens that they continued to work with staff and partners throughout the state to ensure they were providing the quality of life their citizens needed. He thanked the Board and citizens tonight for their comments. He emphasized that the Board and County were working effectively and efficiently to address all citizens' needs and concerns. He thanked everyone for their involvement in the many, varied initiatives in the community, as they all helped make Surry strong. He added that he wanted to thank Ms. Harrell for her report this evening and for being such a great role model to the youth of Surry County.

Chairman Elliott – thanked his fellow Board members for their comments. He agreed the Board was grateful for all the ongoing efforts in the County as they worked towards making it an even greater place. He noted that in addition to sitting on this Board, the Supervisors all sat on many other boards and committees. He reported that he attended a meeting of the Crater Planning District Commission this past week, and they were looking to develop a regional transportation authority (RTA) board. They would be requesting funds from the General Assembly to establish this, and he had advocated for Surry County to get a fair share of the transportation funding, despite their small size. He reiterated that the Supervisors advocated for Surry County everywhere they went, not just from this dais. He noted that the Board was doing all that they could to inform citizens of the current work being done and the current events in Surry County, and the Board must responsibly disseminate information to the public to ensure it was accurate and clear. He said that for example, the audit report the Board received tonight would be posted for the public to view, but the Board must receive it and accept the results before they could share it with the public. He emphasized that the Board was committed to being transparent and

they continued to do this in all areas of their work, with the ultimate goal of achieving the betterment of all citizens of Surry County. He encouraged everyone to come out to the final First Fridays tomorrow evening, which was a great opportunity for them all to join together and enjoy their community. He added that the Board of Supervisors would be part of the Christmas Parade, as well. He thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting, and he looked forward to continually doing great things for the best County in the Commonwealth.

Reports

There were none.

For Your Information

There was none.

Closed Session

There was none.

Adjournment

Chairman Elliott asked for a motion for adjournment to October 22, 2025, for a Work Session.

Supervisor Calhoun moved, and Supervisor Hardy seconded.

Vote 5:0 (Approved):

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

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