



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, DECEMBER 4, 2025, AT 6:00 PM.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MR. DELON BROWN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
MS. ROBIN FAULKS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
MR. RAY PHELPS, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
MR. HORACE WADE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
MS. DOREATHA PIERCE
MS. SHARNAWHITE, REGISTRAR

Invocation

The invocation was given by Pastor Charles Cypress, Wakefield Christian Outreach Center.

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 CAMERAN DREW	AYE

Chairman Elliott presented Supervisor Cameran Drew with a County pin and manual for the Surry County Board of Supervisors. The Board members welcomed Mr. Drew and thanked him for his service. Chairman Elliott noted that Mr. Drew was the youngest-ever elected Supervisor in County history.

Consent Items

1. Resolution – Honoring Mrs. Joyce Henderson – Economic Development Authority
2. Resolution – Honoring Mrs. Ruby E. Price – Age 100

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 Calhoun seconded the motion.

Vote (Approved):

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

Nays: None

Chairman Elliott presented the Resolution Honoring Mrs. Joyce Henderson for her exemplary dedication, sacrifice and service to the Economic Development Authority and the people of Surry County. All members past and present of the EDA were acknowledged.

Mrs. Henderson accepted the Resolution and thanked the Board for the recognition. She expressed her gratitude to everyone in the County who worked with her to make Surry County such a great place and she looked forward to continuing to make it greater.

Chairman Elliott presented the Resolution to Mrs. Ruby E. Price for reaching the age of 100 years old and for her lifelong contributions to Surry County. The family of Ms. Price was acknowledged.

Mrs. Price accepted the Resolution and thanked the Board, the community, and God.

Public Comments

1. Robert Chandler, Bacon's Castle District – expressed concern about steep tax increases in relation to the devaluation of the dollar, and requested the Board consider reducing tax rates for Surry County
2. Susan Corvello, Claremont District – commended the new crosswalks at the schools; expressed concern about the reduction in financial transparency from the County and requested they provide the monthly AP reports, LGIP report, and provide confirmation that bank reconciliations were completed on schedule

Presentations

1. Crater District Area Agency on Aging

Melissa Rollins, County Administrator, introduced Shelisa Hill, Nutrition and Wellness Specialist and Renata Sharnick, CEO of Crater District Area Agency on Aging.

Ms. Sharnick presented information on the services provided by the Agency to include information on the nutrition programs for seniors offered by the Agency, including home meal delivery, farmer's market vouchers, congregate meals and group activities, and nutrition counseling. She also shared some of the positive feedback the Agency had received in response

to these programs. She explained that their Agency also offered a 12-month Diabetes Prevention Program, which had proven to be very successful over the past three years of implementation. Ms. Sharnick thanked the County for their partnership.

Chairman Elliott thanked Ms. Sharnick and Ms. Hill for the presentation. He said that this was a greatly valuable entity for the County and their senior population.

Mr. Hardy thanked Ms. Sharnick and Ms. Hill for their partnership with the County and their Department of Social Services. He expressed his appreciation for all the programs they offered, and he hoped they could get more seniors involved in all the opportunities they provided.

Mr. Pierce thanked Ms. Sharnick and Ms. Hill for providing these important services for their seniors. He asked how their programs were funded in anticipation of the senior population increasing in the future. Ms. Sharnick replied that their major two funding sources were federal and state, but they received local funding as well. She stated that local investment in these programs was very important because it allowed them to expand their programs and make them more robust.

Mr. Pierce asked if Surry's participation in these programs was equal to the funding they provided. Ms. Sharnick clarified that they did not have specific funding formulas for each locality; it depended on the demand. She said that for example, the meal delivery program was 100% paid for by Crater.

New Business

1. Real Estate Tax Rebate Resolution

Lola Perkins, County Attorney, introduced the item. She stated that before the Board tonight was a Resolution for their consideration of a real estate tax rebate. During the Board's November meeting, the Board adopted an Ordinance amendment which allowed, pursuant to Virginia Code, the ability for the Board to implement a rebate, credit, or similar method of returning tax revenues in years where a surplus was collected from real estate and/or personal property taxes. She summarized that the Resolution before the Board this evening was for a one-time real estate tax rebate; the rebate would apply to those citizens who paid real estate taxes assessed as of January 1, 2025 and properties designated as a primary residence in the tax rolls of the County. She then reviewed the qualifications, eligibility, and methodology for the rebate as detailed in the Resolution.

Mr. Elliott asked for questions or comments from Board Members.

Mr. Calhoun expressed his support for the Resolution and the intent behind it. He requested the Board to consider, in the event of a future rebate, that they work together to review all possible options for providing the rebate.

Chairman Elliott acknowledged Mr. Calhoun's point. He noted this was the first time the County had been in a position to provide a rebate, and he agreed that they could look into different avenues for providing this in the future, but this was the most feasible way to achieve it at this juncture.

Mr. Hardy emphasized that this was the first time that Surry County citizens would be receiving a tax rebate, so this was a historic moment.

Board Action: Chairman Elliott asked for motion on the Proposed Resolution for Real Estate Tax Rebate. Supervisor Hardy moved for approval of **the Resolution 2025-21 for Real Estate Tax Rebate**, and Supervisor Calhoun seconded the motion.

Vote: 5:0 (Approved)

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

Nays: None

Ms. Rollins said that the next step for the Board was to appropriate from the fund balance surplus property taxes the amount of \$640,000, the estimated cost to cover the rebate.

Board Action: Chairman Elliott asked for motion on the appropriation of \$640,000 from the fund balance. Supervisor Hardy moved for approval of **the appropriation of \$640,000 from the fund balance**, and Supervisor Pierce seconded the motion.

Vote: 5:0 (Approved)

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

Nays: None

County Administrator's Report

Melissa Rollins, County Administrator, asked Mr. Phelps to share some important updates with the Board.

Ray Phelps, Chief of Emergency Management, reported that they recently purchased a mini-pumper truck for the Dendron Volunteer Fire Department and a new medical unit, their third for Surry County Emergency Medical Services. He explained that they made a choice a few years ago to begin prioritizing 4x4 vehicles for their emergency management for the main reason that their County had many gravel driveways that could be difficult to navigate. He noted that the medical vehicle had a large red ribbon to promote awareness for strokes and encouraged everyone to learn the BEFAST (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arms, Speech, Time) acronym to stay aware of the common signs of a stroke. He extended his thanks to all of their local paid and volunteer fire departments and EMS teams.

Ms. Rollins noted that those two vehicles were cash-funded investments and did not include any debt financing.

Reports

1. FOIA Request Summary - November
2. Surry County Building Official's Office Monthly Report – November 2025
3. Surry County Inspection Performance By District and Pass/Fail Rate – November 2025

Chairman Elliott enumerated the reports and noted the addition of the monthly FOIA request summary, which was provided for the public's benefit.

Board Comments

Chairman Elliott – stated that he had the opportunity today to represent Surry County at the Smithfield Riverside Hospital's ribbon cutting ceremony. He was proud that their Board was

present to see such a great addition to the eastern part of Surry County. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year. He stated that they had gotten a whole lot done this year as a Board of Supervisors, and he was extremely proud of all the work they put in. He added that in terms of transparency, he believed the Board was clear in communicating their underlying intent behind all of their actions was to make life better for citizens in Surry County, and he had great pride in what they had accomplished thus far. He hoped to see everyone on Tuesday for the tree-lighting ceremony.

Mr. Hardy – thanked their first responders present at tonight's meeting. He commented that they had received public comments about their tax rates this evening and he would just note that they could not cut taxes to achieve prosperity; their EDA was working to bring in businesses to the County so that they had more revenues and the taxes would be lessened for everyone. He said that on another note, he wanted to clarify that historically, bank reconciliations had not been a function of the Finance Department, so perhaps they would seek new guidance in terms of corrective actions, but it had not been the role of the Finance Department. He reported that it had been a busy month since the Board's last meeting, with the Veterans Day meal, the 91st Annual Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Conference, County retirees lunch, visits to the Senior Center, and a Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) meeting. He congratulated Mr. Drew on his election to the Board and said that he looked forward to working with him. He reported that all the Board members had the opportunity to visit their schools for their local Legislators Day, and he was amazed at all of the programs and activities their students were part of. He said that as the Chair mentioned, he also attended the Smithfield Riverside Hospital ribbon-cutting. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and encouraged everyone to attend the tree lighting next week.

Mr. Calhoun – welcomed Mr. Drew to his first meeting of the Board of Supervisors and congratulated him on being the youngest Supervisor in the Commonwealth. He reported that on every third Thursday of the month, the food bank comes into Surry County, and he helped hand out food for November. He said that they had another event at 9:00 p.m. next Thursday, and he encouraged everyone to volunteer if possible. He congratulated Mrs. Henderson for all her work achieved in her service to Surry County, and he also congratulated Ms. Price for her milestone of 100 years of age. He stated that the new fire truck and EMS vehicle were very nice and he thanked all of their firefighters and EMS staff for their service. He said that the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Smithfield Riverside Hospital was a beautiful day and the hospital was impressive. He asked everyone to be safe as they traveled during the cold weather and snow, especially to and from the tree lighting ceremony on Tuesday. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2026.

Ms. Harrell – thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here tonight. She congratulated Mr. Drew on his successful campaign and becoming an honorable member of the Board. She expressed her pride and gratitude on behalf of herself and the rest of the youth of the County for everything he had done for them. She said that Mr. Drew had demonstrated that at any age, everyone could achieve their dreams and become an impactful member of society. She recognized the efforts that went into providing the crosswalks at Surry County Public Schools; she was very thankful for being able to use them and could confirm they were very effective in helping students stay safe. She thanked everyone in Surry for working together to make it a

better place and grow the community. She wished everyone happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Drew – stated that he was honored to be sitting here this evening. He thanked his family and friends for being here tonight and for their constant support. He thanked the Dendron District for trusting him to serve them all, and he looked forward to working with everyone. He said that he would give his best to serve everyone. He thanked his fellow Supervisors, Ms. Perkins, and Ms. Rollins for welcoming him and helping him adjust to this new role. He congratulated Mrs. Henderson and thanked her for her service on the EDA. He wished Mrs. Price a very happy birthday. He thanked Mr. Phelps and all of their first responders for their work in the County. He stated that in seeing the Riverside Hospital today, he knew it would be a tremendous asset to all County citizens. He encouraged everyone to follow the County's Facebook page and their new Tourism video. He said that his colleagues had mentioned the tree lighting, but he would like to add that they had a Christmas Parade, and more information and updates were available on their Facebook page. He reported that on Tuesday, he had the opportunity to attend the Legislators Day at the schools, and he highly encouraged everyone to volunteer with their schools, join the PTA, and be an active part of their school division. He said that the County funded a good portion of the school system, and being involved and staying up to date was a great way for them to strengthen their relationship. He asked everyone to please continue to support their students and staff, and the Board would do the same. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year, and asked everyone to be safe on their way home this evening.

Mr. Pierce – thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and for watching at home. He thanked the Board for everything they did in their community, serving their constituents and their respective districts. He agreed with all the comments his colleagues had made; he thanked their EMS team and volunteer fire department staff. He asked them to please let the Board know if there was anything more they could do to support them. He thanked the presenters from the Crater District Area Agency on Aging, which was important considering their senior population in Surry was growing. He thanked Ms. Henderson on all that she had done in their community. He congratulated Ms. Price on reaching 100 years of age; it was truly a blessing and remarkable testament to her health and faith. He welcomed Mr. Drew to the dais and was thankful to have someone representing the Dendron District. He thanked everyone for making the new crosswalks and sidewalk at the school system possible. He reminded the public that the Christmas Parade would be held on December 13, 2025 and he encouraged everyone to attend. He said that the tree lighting would be on Tuesday and he hoped the community would support that as well. He thanked his church, St. Paul Holiness Church for the meals they provided to families over the Thanksgiving holiday. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Bertha Thomas, who would be retiring soon, for all she did for their students and constituents. He said that the Board would continue to strive to listen to all the public input they received on their work, and while they could not appease everyone, they would do their best to make sure everyone in Surry had the best quality of life and the services they needed from their County. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and asked everyone to drive home safely.

Chairman Elliott – commended Ms. Thomas on her 40 years of service to the County and its school system.

Ms. Rollins – thanked all the Surry team members who were at today's meeting. She noted that their team did a phenomenal job of putting on so many community events, and she wanted to thank them all very much. She credited their Deputy County Administrator Mr. Brown and his operations team for managing the sidewalk and crosswalk installation at the schools. She further thanked staff for their contributions to the County.

Chairman Elliott – asked everyone to prioritize spreading love during the holiday season.

For Your Information

There was none.

Adjournment

Chairman Elliott asked for a motion for adjournment to January 15, 2026, 6:00 p.m. for a regular meeting.

Supervisor Calhoun moved, and Supervisor Pierce seconded.

Vote 5:0 (Approved):

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

Nays: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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

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