



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, JUNE 4, 2026, AT 6:00 PM.

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. HORACE WADE, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
MR. RAY PHELPS, DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
MS. RENEE CHAPLINE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invocation

The invocation was given by Deacon Russell Savedge of Cypress Baptist Church.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pierce, 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 Pierce asked for Motion to accept the agenda. Supervisor Elliott made a motion to accept the agenda and Supervisor Drew seconded the motion. All present voted affirmatively. (Approved)

SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE.	AYE
SUPERVISOR WALTER HARDY	AYE
SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR	AYE
SUPERVISOR CAMERAN DREW	AYE
SUPERVISOR JOHN SEWARD	AYE

Consent Items

1. Approval of Draft Minutes – May 7, 2026
2. Approval of Draft Minutes – Special Call Meeting – May 20, 2026
3. Resolution – Alma Rose Howell Blizzard – Age of 90
4. Resolution – Town of Dendron – 120th Anniversary

Chairman Pierce read the items listed for consent and asked Board members if any items needed to be pulled for discussion.

Supervisor Elliott moved, and Supervisor Hardy seconded, to approve the consent agenda without Item 3.

Vote 5:0 (Approved):

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hardy, Dr. Elliott, Mr. Drew, Mr. Seward

Nays: None

Vice Chair Hardy presented Item 3, Resolution 2026-16 to recognize Alma Rose Howell Blizzard for reaching the age of 90.

Ms. Blizzard accepted the Resolution and gave remarks.

Supervisor Drew presented Item 4, Resolution 2026-17 to recognize the 120th Anniversary of the Town of Dendron.

Thomas Byrd accepted the Resolution and gave remarks.

Public Comments

1. Susan Corvello, Claremont District – requested that her name be removed from the FOIA report on tonight's agenda; requested an update on the status of procurement process for landscaping services

Presentations

1. Virginia Association of Counties – Presentation of VACO Achievement Award for ERP System Implementation

Gage Harter, Director of Communications, presented Surry County with the VACO Achievement Award for ERP System Implementation. He stated that this was Surry County's third VACO Achievement Award, and he would let County staff provide the details on the program that was awarded this year.

Delon Brown, Deputy Administrator of Operations and Infrastructure, explained that the County took an opportunity to implement the Enterprise Resource Planning System, replacing their outdated software. This initiative enhanced operational efficiency, financial management, and service delivery across County departments.

Melissa Harvey, Finance Director for Surry County Public Schools, acknowledged the many people who contributed to this effort. She thanked the County for the opportunity to upgrade the system.

2. South Central Transportation Authority Update

E. Jay Ellington, Executive Director of Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC), provided an update. He stated that the Board had already reviewed this information and passed a Resolution to support their regional endeavor, so tonight he would discuss some new information and ensure everyone was up to date. He explained that they were working together with their member jurisdictions as well as neighboring PDCs to achieve regional

collaborative planning goals. He discussed their projects, funding opportunities and mechanisms, state-level processes, and regional coordination for their prospective regional transit authority.

Supervisor Seward asked if additional gas tax or sales tax would be supporting the regional transit authority.

Mr. Ellington replied that it would be additional sales tax, but no additional gas tax. That money would be collected by the CPDC.

Supervisor Elliott explained that part of the reason the Board had already expressed support for the formation of the regional transit authority was because there would be equal representation among the member localities, so Surry would be well-positioned to receive necessary transportation funding.

Chairman Pierce thanked Mr. Ellington for his hard work and diligence in his advocacy for transportation in their region.

3. Workforce Development Program Achievements – Surry Nuclear Power Station Internship Partnering Program

Linda Gholston, Workforce Coordinator, reported that the Surry Nuclear Power Station Internship Partnering Program had grown significantly since its inception three years ago. She introduced Gene Thompson, Fleet Director at Day & Zimmerman, to provide an update. Eugene Thompson, Fleet Director at Day & Zimmerman, thanked Ms. Gholston for her invaluable contributions to this program. He noted that the program they began in Surry was now being piloted at their other locations across the country. He explained that they recently partnered with the Virginia Community College System to develop a digital marketing campaign to encourage students to join the workforce in nuclear energy. He discussed the objectives of the apprentice program and its role in securing stable and well-paying careers in the County.

Supervisor Drew thanked Mr. Thompson and Ms. Gholston for their dedication to standing up this internship program. He knew it was a great opportunity and he encouraged young people to explore what the internship had to offer to them, as there were a lot of career paths to discover locally with Dominion and Day & Zimmerman.

Vice Chair Hardy emphasized the importance of local businesses providing employment for Surry citizens, especially their youth.

Supervisor Seward asked if Mr. Thompson had the number of Surry citizens they employed and apprenticed.

Mr. Thompson said that he did not have the exact number available, but they had about 16 interns each year and almost all of them were Surry residents.

Chairman Pierce thanked Mr. Thompson and Ms. Gholston for all their work, and that this demonstrated the mutual benefit of local partnerships can be lifechanging opportunities for their community members.

4. Legislative Update: The Honorable Delegate Kimberly Pope Adams, House of Delegates, 82nd District

Kimberly Pope Adams, Delegate representing the 82nd District of Virginia, presented a legislative update to the Board. She noted that after taking office in January this year, she was appointed to three committees and three commissions as part of her legislative assignments. She stated that she was a patron of 12 bills this year, and nine of those were passed to the Governor's desk and due to become law on July 1, 2026. She reported on three key bills: House Bill (HB) 317, regarding critical broadband infrastructure; HB 1178, regarding septic system inspections; and HB 512, the Virginia Farm and Forest Prosperity Plan. She also presented House Resolution 322 Commending Melissa Rollins.

County Administrator's Report

1. American Heart Association Donation
2. Employee Achievements and County Recognition
3. Tourism Update

Melissa Rollins, County Administrator, recognized Supervisor Cameran Drew for his graduation from Virginia Peninsula Community College with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration, his speech as keynote speaker, his acceptance to Virginia State University (VSU) and his acceptance to the Hunt Institute in North Carolina. She also recognized Lieutenant Leslie Comer, who received his Master's Degree in Organizational Development and Knowledge Management from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.

Ms. Rollins introduced Shannon Pierce, President of Virginia Natural Gas, who served with her on the American Heart Association Heart Ball fundraising campaign. Shannon Pierce, President of Virginia Natural Gas, expressed her gratitude to Ms. Rollins for her dedication to the organization and this campaign. She explained that rural communities in the Tidewater Region had identified issues with lack of access to resources, including quality food. She stated that through partnership they forged with the American Heart Association of Hampton Roads and Surry County, they would be able to provide refrigeration for their local food program, with the intent of providing more fresh produce and meat instead of processed foods. The Board thanked Ms. Pierce and Ms. Rollins for their advocacy of Surry County. Ms. Rollins requested the Board to accept the donation from the American Heart Association in the amount of \$5,000 for refrigeration access in the community.

Board Action: Chairman Pierce asked for a motion on the item.

Supervisor Elliott moved to accept the donation from the American Heart Association in the amount of \$5,000 for refrigeration access in the community, seconded by Supervisor Hardy.

Vote: 5:0 (Approved)

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hardy, Dr. Elliott, Mr. Drew, Mr. Seward

Nays: None

Renee Chapline, Economic Development Consultant, provided the Tourism update. She presented their summer season commercial for Surry County. She stated that they had an excellent turnout for their initial First Fridays and the next would be tomorrow night on June 5. She announced their Stars and Stripes Festival would be held on July 3 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Board Comments & Board Presentations

Chairman Pierce recognized Student Representative Zariah Harrell and presented her with a service award. He commended Ms. Harrell for her service as the inaugural Student Representative to the Board of Supervisors, for graduating as valedictorian of her class at Surry County High School this year, and her many extracurricular achievements.

Zariah Harrell, Student Representative, stated that it had been an honor to serve in this capacity on the Board. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity and for all the support from her colleagues. She sincerely thanked everyone for believing in her, and their guidance and kindness made her into the person she was today.

Chairman Pierce recognized County Administrator Melissa Rollins for her diligent and distinguished service to the Board of Supervisors and citizens of Surry County.

David Harrison, Deputy County Administrator, read a resolution on behalf of the Board of Supervisors recognizing her service to Surry County.

Chairman Pierce welcomed the Smithfield-Surry Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority to give a presentation.

Members of the AKA Sorority recognized their sorority sister, Melissa Rollins, for her dedicated service as County Administrator and her four years of distinguished leadership as President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Phi Chi Omega Chapter.

Ms. Rollins thanked Delegate Pope Adams, her sisters of Phi Chi Omega AKA Sorority, Incorporated, and the Board of Supervisors, for the recognitions and for being here this evening. She also thanked God for keeping her safe during her many travels over the past 31 years of local government service. She stated that although tonight marked the near-end of her service as County Administrator, it did not mark the end of her appreciation for this community and the people who had made this journey so meaningful. She stated that when thinking about the accomplishments over the decades, she was reminded that none of them belonged to any one person; they belonged to a team of dedicated employees and impactful elected leaders who shared a vision for making Surry County stronger. She said the many achievements recognized tonight have helped position Surry County as a model rural community and a place where progress and tradition can work hand-in-hand. She stated that one of the greatest lessons she learned in leadership was that success was built on relationships, recognizing that the greatest accomplishments come when working together toward a common purpose.

Ms. Rollins congratulated Mr. Harrison on his appointment as Interim County Administrator. She stated that his professional background and years of service had more than prepared him for the role come July 1. Together they had navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and remained committed to moving Surry County forward, and she had every confidence the County will continue to thrive under his leadership. She also recognized Deputy County Administrator Brown for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence helped move Surry County forward both operationally and technologically. She also recognized key members of their team who had been instrumental in the success of this organization: Ray Phelps; Derrick Moore; Matt Westheimer; Horace Wade; Renee Chapline; Lola Perkins; Melissa Harvey; and many other staff members and constitutional officers.

Ms. Rollins stated that she knew that Surry County was in capable hands, the future was bright, and she would continue to cheer them on with pride in her heart for everything they have accomplished together. She thanked her husband for his support, love, and patience. She stated that serving Surry County had been one of the greatest honors of her life; this was her home, grew up here, went to school here, and hoped she leaves it better than she found it. She stated that her heart was full of gratitude, pride, and confidence in the future of this great community. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for their trust and for the opportunity to serve Surry County. She knew they had a selfless passion to make Surry County the best it can be, and it had been an outstanding pleasure to work with them. She expressed her appreciation from the bottom of her heart for everything. She asked that God continue to bless Surry County, its leaders, and everyone who calls it home.

Chairman Pierce asked the Board members if they had any comments.

Supervisor Seward thanked Ms. Rollins for her service to the County.

Supervisor Drew announced that the Juneteenth Festival would be held on June 20 at the Pavilion from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and he hoped he would see everyone there. He also announced that on June 13, the Town of Dendron would be hosting its 120th Anniversary Celebration starting at 10:00 a.m. with a parade, with more festivities to follow. He reiterated his thanks to Ms. Gholston for her continued efforts in workforce development in the community. He thanked staff for everything they did with regard to the VACO Achievement Award. He also thanked Delegate Pope Adams for attending tonight's meeting, which was greatly appreciated by the Board and the community. He congratulated Ms. Harrell for all her achievements and wished her well in her future endeavors. He congratulated Ms. Rollins on her retirement. He recalled when he shadowed Ms. Rollins for Student Government Day and was amazed at everything she did, and she was a major influence on why he was here today. He thanked her for everything she did, which inspired not only people in Surry but across the Commonwealth.

Supervisor Elliott thanked Ms. Rollins for her hard work and dedication. He stated that during his four years as Chair of the Board, he saw firsthand the long hours Ms. Rollins contributed to serving Surry County. He personally thanked her for her integrity, veracity, and manner of handling the job of County Administrator. He additionally thanked Mr. Rollins for his patience during his wife's tenure in this job. He also reported that he was recently selected as Chairman of the Improvement Association, and wanted to notify the public of the resources provided by this organization. The Improvement Association was critical in sponsoring Head Start programs, as well as housing, workforce development, and transportation for people in need. He asked that anyone who needed help to please reach out to him so he could put them in contact with resources.

Supervisor Hardy thanked the Chippokes representatives for attending tonight's meeting. He reiterated his best wishes to Ms. Blizzard on her 90th birthday and encouraged the community to let their district Supervisor know of any citizens who should be recognized for reaching similar life milestones. He congratulated Ms. Harrell on her graduation and acceptance to Old Dominion University in the fall. He thanked Delegate Pope Adams for coming to tonight's meeting. He echoed the remarks of his colleagues with regard to Ms. Rollins' retirement, and added that it was commendable for her to come back as a native of Surry and serve the community in the capacity she had. He knew the County would be forever grateful to her, and he gave her sincere thanks.

Chairman Pierce – thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and thanked those watching the meeting virtually. He stated that it had been an eventful meeting, and it was great to celebrate such a wide variety of positive things happening in the community. He congratulated Ms. Harrell for all her hard work and wished her the best of luck in her future endeavors. He expressed appreciation for all the presentations given tonight and was humbled that so many capable Surry citizens were making an impact across the Commonwealth and advocating for the community. He acknowledged that Ms. Rollins' leadership had been unwavering throughout the years and he recalled being very impressed by her capability when he first met her. He was humbled and honored to see a Surry resident achieve what Ms. Rollins had, and he encouraged her to continue that trajectory in her next chapter.

Reports

1. FOIA Request Summary – May 2026
2. Surry County Building Official's Office Monthly Report – Building Permits issues for the Month of May 2026
3. Surry County Inspection Performance By District and Pass/Fail Rate – May 2026

Chairman Pierce enumerated the reports. He asked Board members to please review the reports and provide any questions or comments to staff.

For Your Information

1. LGIP Investment Letter April 2026

Adjournment

Chairman Pierce asked for a motion for adjournment to July 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m. for a regular meeting.

Supervisor Elliott moved, and Supervisor Drew seconded.

Vote 5:0 (Approved):

Ayes: Mr. Pierce, Mr. Hardy, Mr. Seward, Dr. Elliott, Mr. Drew

Nays: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the Surry County Government Website:
<https://www.surrycountyva.gov/387/Watch-A-Meeting>