



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, March 16, 2026
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the March 16, 2026, meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 5:00 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tommy J. Barlow	Mountain Road District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Patrick Henry District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Christopher C. McCotter	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
H. Manning Woodward, III	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator; Wanda Colvin, Deputy County Administrator; Patricia Smith, County Attorney; William Newman, Assistant County Attorney; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Cindy King, Community Engagement and Tourism Manager; Griff Carmichael, Director of Human Resources; Adny Wade, Director of Economic Development; and Scott Raettig, Director of Information Technology

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Vice Chairman Barlow, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0 the Board voted to enter Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following:

1. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(7), Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probably litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and
2. In accordance with §2.2-3711(A)(8), Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 6:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION - CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Voter	Role	Vote
Tommy J. Barlow	Voter	Yes/Aye
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Seconder	Yes/Aye
R.T. Williams, Jr.	Mover	Yes/Aye
Christopher C. McCotter	Voter	Yes/Aye
Duane A. Adams	Voter	Yes/Aye
Rachel G. Jones	Voter	Yes/Aye
H. Manning Woodward, III	Voter	Yes/Aye

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors has convened a Closed Meeting this 16th day of March 2026, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 16th day of March 2026, that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting was heard, discussed or considered by the Louisa County Board of Supervisors.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - 6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION

Supervisor Adams led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the agenda, as amendment, with the following changes:

1. Added a discussion for Fiscal Year 2027 Operational & Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan Budget to Information/Discussion Items
2. Removed a resolution congratulating Aiden West for Winning the 2026 Louisa County Spelling Bee Contest from Recognitions
3. Removed a presentation for VDOT's Quarterly Update from Information/Discussion Items

MINUTES APPROVAL**Board of Supervisors Budget Worksession Minutes – March 2, 2026**

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2026, budget worksession.

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2026

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2026, regular meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL**Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the First Half of March 2026**

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board adopted a resolution approving the bills for first half of March 2026.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Resolution - Authorizing the Renewal of the Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance Contract
2. Resolution - To Approve and Award a Contract for Audit Services
3. Resolution - Authorizing a Pass Through Appropriation to the Animal Shelter from DMV's Animal Friendly Plate Program
4. Resolution - Authorizing the Louisa County Sheriff's Department to Apply for the FY27 PSAP Resiliency Grant
5. Resolution - To Approve and Award a Contract for Janitorial Services at the Louisa County Airport
6. Resolution - To Approve and Award a Contract for Therapeutic Mentoring Services for the Louisa County Child Services Act
7. Resolution - To Approve and Award a Contract for Concrete Services
8. Resolution - Authorizing a Budget Transfer for Louisa County Public Schools from the CTE Center Project to the New Elementary School Capital Project
9. Resolution- Authorizing the Department of Fire and EMS to Apply for a Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant for the Purchase of Patient Care Ventilators

RECOGNITIONS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Adams opened the public comment period.

Mr. David Rogers, Mineral District, criticized the Board of Supervisors for supporting data center development, which he believes has triggered harmful infrastructure projects like Valley

Link. He expressed concerns about potential health risks, negative impacts on livestock, and significant decreases in property values. Mr. Rogers rejected comparisons to past developments, arguing those projects benefited the community, unlike current proposals. He emphasized long-term consequences for residents and their families, urged the public to hold officials accountable, and accused the Board of prioritizing financial interests over the community's well-being.

Ms. Vicky Hart, Louisa District (Town of Louisa), shared her involvement in planning events for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, including opportunities for public participation. She then addressed the proposed transmission line, emphasizing the need for increased power capacity to support population growth, businesses, and data centers. While acknowledging opposition to both transmission lines and expanded power facilities, she warned that rejecting these solutions could lead to power shortages. However, she questioned the proposed route of the transmission line through multiple neighboring counties and raised concerns about its impact on lower-income areas. She also suggested that underground transmission lines using existing rights-of-way could be a viable alternative.

Mr. Hurley, Lucckese, Patrick Henry District, invited the Board of Supervisors to attend Louisa County High School's first annual Spring Fest. Organized as part of an FCCLA project, the event aims to provide a fun and safe environment for high school students and will feature vendors, clubs, and various activities. He expressed appreciation to those supporting the event and welcomed further interest or support from the Board.

Mr. Roy Waters, Mineral District, expressed concerns about personal property taxes. He discussed zoning and family division regulations, asking for flexibility so long-time residents who relocate within the county do not have to restart the proposed eligibility timelines. He shared concerns about the impact of nearby developments, including data centers and infrastructure projects, on property desirability for future generations. Mr. Waters also advocated for improved local access to Lake Anna, suggesting resident-only access points amid increasing development and tourism. Lastly, he questioned the cost of school architectural expenses and suggested reusing prior designs to reduce costs.

The following speakers either did not complete a comment card or submitted their card after the meeting; therefore, names and spellings may be inaccurate.

Ms. Amy Daney, Patrick Henry District, thanked the Board for unanimously opposing the Valley Link project and expressed concern about its impact on the county. She urged greater regional collaboration with neighboring counties and encouraged citizens to submit comments to FERC and contact state officials to strengthen opposition. Ms. Daney criticized the public engagement process as ineffective and questioned why underground transmission options, used elsewhere, are not being considered locally. She called for clearer explanations from Dominion or PJM and emphasized the need for unified community action against the project.

Ms. Sarah Strentz, Patrick Henry District, shared that a proposed transmission line would run through her dog boarding and rescue business, threatening its success and the calm environment she has built. She expressed concerns about potential impacts on animals, wildlife, and overall health, particularly from electromagnetic effects. While acknowledging the financial motivations behind the project, she suggested that undergrounding the lines could reduce harm and opposition. She thanked the Board for opposing the project and urged continued support to protect local businesses and the community.

Mr. Steve Strentz, Patrick Henry District, argued that high-voltage transmission lines can be placed underground and that cost is the primary reason they are not. He shared personal experience with electrical hazards to highlight safety concerns and warned of potential health risks. Mr. Strentz also explained that growing energy demands from data centers are driving the need for new infrastructure but expressed concern about the visual and environmental impact of large overhead lines on the county. He urged that costs be absorbed by data center companies and advocated for underground solutions as a safer and more suitable alternative.

Mr. Chris Liles, Mineral District, requested more information about a recently added \$33 million water infrastructure item in the county budget, noting it had not been previously discussed in detail. Regarding the Valley Link transmission lines, he expressed opposition but emphasized that the county should acknowledge its role in creating the need for such infrastructure by approving energy-intensive data centers. He urged honesty about the broader impacts of those decisions, noting that increased power demand drives projects like Valley Link. While hoping the project is altered or moved, he stressed the importance of considering the consequences of development choices and regional impacts.

Chairman Adams acknowledged that a written comment had been received and, at the request of the submitter, asked that it be made part of the public meeting record. (See Appendix A.)

With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public comment period.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion – Fiscal Year 2027 Operational & Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan Budget

Ms. Colvin provided an update on changes to the FY2027 budget following the cancellation of a work session. Key updates include increasing the projected health insurance cost from 10% to 16%, moving Henson House upgrades from FY2028 to FY2027, and revising plans for funding water infrastructure projects. Instead of paying off an existing VRA loan and issuing new, higher-interest debt, the County plans to use available funds to directly support required wastewater treatment plant upgrades at Ferncliff and New Bridge, resulting in a more cost-effective approach.

Supervisor Williams explained that the County chose not to issue new debt for water projects because existing debt is cheaper, allowing funds to remain in cash and saving approximately \$3.8 million annually. He clarified that the Ferncliff water treatment plant clarifier has always been part of the plan but was deferred in 2015 until demand increased. Due to rising water usage and stricter state health and environmental regulations, the clarifier is now necessary. He confirmed that updated treatment requirements have significantly changed the needed equipment and noted the projected cost for the clarifier is about \$11.5 million. He further noted that a public hearing will be held at the next meeting regarding the proposed funding changes, with a notice expected to be issued soon.

Ms. Colvin explained that the County plans to keep its existing debt, which carries a lower interest rate of about 3%, rather than paying it off and issuing new debt at a higher rate of around 4%, which would also incur additional fees. She clarified that this decision does not increase the

County's overall debt. She also reminded the Board and public of upcoming budget town hall meetings and the scheduled public hearing at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Resolution – Strongly Opposing the Proposed Valley Link Transmission Project in Louisa County

Chairman Adams asked County Administrator Goodwin to read the proposed resolution. He read the resolution as follows:

A RESOLUTION STRONGLY OPPOSING THE PROPOSED VALLEY LINK TRANSMISSION PROJECT IN LOUISA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Valley Link, a joint venture of Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy Transmission, and Transource Energy, has proposed the "Joshua Falls to Yeat" project, a 115-mile, 765-kilovolt (kV) high-voltage transmission line spanning numerous counties in Central Virginia; and

WHEREAS, currently proposed routes for the project include approximately 20 miles of new transmission corridor through Louisa County, utilizing steel lattice structures approaching 160 feet in height and requiring significant and permanently cleared right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors finds that an overhead 765kV line would cause significant and irreparable harm to Louisa County's rural character, agricultural heritage, and forestlands, would pass within 500 feet of numerous homes, and would decrease property values for hundreds of residents; and

WHEREAS, the project is intended to transmit bulk power for increasing demand in areas outside of Louisa County, and will provide no direct benefit to the residents or businesses of Louisa County who would bear the burden of its presence; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural, Forestal, and Rural Preservation Committee recommends that the Board formally oppose the proposed route as currently presented and further recommend that the Board request that the State Corporation Commission require utilities to evaluate alternatives that minimize impacts to working agricultural and forestry land, including routing alongside existing infrastructure corridors where feasible.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisa County have expressed overwhelming opposition to the overhead construction of this line due to its environmental, aesthetic, and health impacts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 16th day of March, 2026, that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors hereby formally opposes the construction of the Valley Link Joshua Falls-Yeat 765kV transmission line in Louisa County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board strongly urges Valley Link and the Virginia State Corporation Commission to prioritize alternatives that do not impact Louisa County, or, at

a minimum, require the line to be placed underground to mitigate its devastating impact on the County's landscape and residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the Governor of Virginia, and Louisa County's representatives in the Virginia General Assembly.

Supervisor Williams emphasized that the Board is strongly opposed to the Valley Link transmission line and wants to make it clear they do not support it in any form within Louisa County. He proposed revising the resolution to remove wording that could imply acceptance of an alternative route within the county, reinforcing full opposition. Williams described the project as a regional issue requiring collaboration with other localities and encouraged residents to unite with the Board rather than direct frustration toward them. He stressed that the Board is committed to fighting the project alongside citizens and urged focus on opposing the responsible companies.

Supervisor Williams motioned to approve the resolution, as amended, with proposed changes suggested above. Supervisor Jones seconded the motion.

Chairman Adams emphasized that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors is firmly and unanimously opposed to the Valley Link transmission project and shares the same concerns as residents. He challenged statements made by project representatives, arguing they minimize real impacts to homes, farmland, schools, and overall quality of life. He stressed that agricultural and forestal land should not be considered “undeveloped,” but rather actively stewarded and valuable to the county. Chairman Adams expressed strong concern that the project offers no direct benefit to Louisa County, as it is designed to transmit power elsewhere while leaving local residents with negative consequences such as reduced property values, visual impacts, and potential health concerns, while still bearing part of the cost. He also clarified that, although data centers are being developed in the county, this transmission line is not intended to serve them but instead supports broader regional energy transfer.

He pointed out inconsistencies in the proposed route, noting it is not the most direct path, and highlighted a potential opportunity to stop the project at the regional level, particularly through decisions in other counties like Culpeper. Adams announced plans to coordinate with other affected localities by hosting a multi-county summit to strengthen collective opposition. Ultimately, he called for unity between the Board and citizens, emphasizing that working together regionally and locally will provide the strongest chance of stopping the project. He framed the adopted resolution as the first step in a larger, coordinated effort to oppose the transmission line.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Jones, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to unanimously support the proposed resolution, with amendments to the resolution to remove wording that could imply acceptance of an alternative route within the county, reinforcing full opposition.

Resolution – To Adopt Revised Bylaws for the Louisa County Tourism Advisory Committee

Ms. King explained The Tourism Advisory Committee is proposing bylaw revisions to improve continuity and effectiveness. Key changes include implementing staggered terms to maintain institutional knowledge, establishing attendance requirements for members, clarifying the role of ex officio members, and updating meeting procedures.

A Board member asked whether appointments to the committee are made at-large or by district. They noted that if appointments were district-specific, they should align with the appointing supervisors, but since they are at-large, the member expressed support for the proposed approach.

On the motion of Supervisor McCotter, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the revised bylaws for the Louisa County Tourism Advisory Committee.

Resolution – Authorizing a Budget Supplement to Louisa County Public Schools for a School Construction Assistance Program Grant Received for the CTE Center Project

Wanda Colvin presented a budget supplement to incorporate a \$3.9 million state grant awarded to Louisa County Public Schools for the CTE Center project. This funding allows the County to free up approximately \$3 million that can be redirected toward a future elementary school project.

Board members praised school staff for securing the grant and recognized their efforts in going above and beyond.

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize a budget supplement to the Louisa County CTE Center Project Grant (30161000-484013) in the amount of \$3,900,000 for CTE Center construction expenses. The source of funding is School Construction Grant Funding (2301R32-384012).

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Jackson District

Supervisor Williams outlined the format for the Budget Roadshow, explaining it will begin with a detailed presentation followed by a public comment period, with staff and Board members available for one-on-one discussions to answer specific questions. The goal is to create a transparent and flexible environment for public engagement.

He also encouraged residents to attend, emphasizing that Board members are willing to stay beyond the scheduled time to answer questions and have more in-depth conversations. They assured attendees that all questions will be addressed openly, even if the answers may not always be what people want to hear.

Louisa District

Supervisor Woodward acknowledged the challenges and disruptions caused by data center construction but emphasized their long-term financial benefits for the county. He highlighted significant upcoming infrastructure costs, particularly aging water systems that could exceed \$20

million, and stressed the need for strong revenue sources to avoid burdening taxpayers or increasing debt.

Mr. Woodward argued that data centers provide substantial tax revenue without significantly increasing population demands, making them a strategic choice for the county's financial future. He compared current concerns to past opposition to the North Anna Power Station, noting that while controversial at the time, it ultimately benefited the county. He concluded that, despite short-term inconveniences, data centers will position Louisa County to remain competitive and financially stable compared to neighboring areas.

Patrick Henry District

Mr. Barnes reflected on the challenges of governing, noting that community demands often come with trade-offs, such as improved development at Zion Crossroads now leading to traffic concerns. He emphasized that Board members must balance pros and cons in decision-making. He also highlighted that, unlike neighboring counties considering tax increases, Louisa County is exploring tax relief options, underscoring the Board's effort to respond to residents' concerns and manage growth responsibly.

Cuckoo District

Supervisor McCotter encouraged residents to attend the upcoming Budget Roadshow to ask questions and engage directly with the Board, emphasizing that supervisors are available to represent constituents and provide information. He shared feedback from constituents indicating strong preference for a real estate tax rebate over a personal property tax reduction. He also informed the public about an upcoming DEQ public hearing regarding a discharge permit and encouraged community participation.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

(None)

Board Appointments

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Woodward, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to make the following appointments/reappointments:

1. Appointed Ms. Ashley Michael to the Tourism Advisory Committee as an Ex-Officio Member
2. Appointed Mr. Duane Adams to the Tourism Advisory Committee as an Ex-Officio Member
3. Appointed Mr. Chris McCotter to the Tourism Advisory Committee as an Ex-Officio Member
4. Appointed Ms. Katelyn Coughlan to the Tourism Advisory Committee representing the Visitor's Center, 2 – year term
5. Reappointed Ms. Kristy McGehee to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 2-year term
6. Reappointed Ms. Melanie Baker to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 2-year term
7. Reappointed Ms. Sheridan Grime to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 2-year term
8. Reappointed Ms. Judy Winslow to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 2-year term

9. Reappointed Ms. Tracy Clark to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 2-year term
10. Reappointed Ms. Melissa Young to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 1-year term
11. Reappointed Ms. Breese Glennon to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 1-year term
12. Reappointed Mr. Mike Kavros to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 1-year term
13. Reappointed Ms. Bernice Kube to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 1-year term
14. Reappointed Ms. Cass Llyod to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 1-year term
15. Appointed Mr. Toby Craig to the Tourism Advisory Committee for a 1-year term
16. Appointed Mr. Roger Henry to the unexpired term to the Louisa County Water Authority

County Administrator's Report

Administrator Goodwin provided a brief report noting that February monthly reports are available for review and that VDOT's presentation was postponed to next month's six-year plan hearing, though their report is included in the packet. He highlighted the addition of Bright Hope Baptist Church to the National Register of Historic Places and noted that the county's broadband expansion project is nearing completion. He also commended Ms. Colvin for her leadership in organizing the Budget Roadshows and encouraged caution due to expected severe weather.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance – Amending Chapter 86 Land Development Regulations – Proposed Addition – Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District

Mr. Coon explained the Louisa County Community Development Department received an application to add seven parcels to the Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District. The parcels are identified as tax map parcels 91-20-2, 91-20-3, 91-20-4, 91-33, 91-34, 91-34A, and 91-96. Louisa County has contacted the current property adjoiners of parcels identified and advised them of the application. The proposed addition is northeast, approximately 0.34 miles from the core portion of the existing Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District which is within one mile of the core portion of the existing district, thus supporting the intent of the Agricultural and Forestal District Act.

The Agricultural, Forestal and Rural Preservation Committee met on February 5, 2026, to review the addition to the Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District and voted to forward a recommendation of approval to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors for the addition of tax map parcels 91-20-2, 91-20-3, 91-20-4, 91-33, 91-34, 91-34A, and 91-96 to the Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 12, 2026, and voted that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice compels it to make a recommendation of approval for the addition of tax map parcels 91-20-2, 91-20-3, 91-20-4, 91-33, 91-34, 91-34A, and 91-96 to the Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District, to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Coon introduced the application to speak to the Board.

Ms. Alexandra Stanley thanked the Board for eliminating application fees for agricultural and forestal districts, making the program more accessible. She expressed her family's commitment to preserving the rural character of Louisa County and explained their decision to place their property into the Taylor's Creek Agricultural and Forestal District. She emphasized the importance of protecting farmland, natural beauty, and rural heritage, and encouraged other residents to consider participating in land preservation efforts.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing. With no one wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

On the motion Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barlow, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board the request for the addition of tax map parcels 91-20-2, 91-20-3, 91-20-4, 91-33, 91-34, 91-34A, and 91-96 to the Taylors Creek Agricultural and Forestal District, with resulting amendments to 86-501 districts.

<u>OWNER'S NAME</u>	<u>TAX MAP PARCEL #</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
<u>Conway Ernest & Audrey Stanely</u>	<u>91-20-2</u>	<u>7.432</u>
<u>Conway Ernest & Audrey Stanely</u>	<u>91-20-3</u>	<u>8.937</u>
<u>Conway Ernest & Audrey Stanely</u>	<u>91-20-4</u>	<u>8.937</u>
<u>Conway Stanley</u>	<u>91-33</u>	<u>7.49</u>
<u>Conway Stanley</u>	<u>91-34</u>	<u>12.31</u>
<u>Audrey Stanley</u>	<u>91-34A</u>	<u>3.34</u>
<u>Michael Stanley</u>	<u>91-96</u>	<u>31.25</u>

Ordinance – Proposed Amendments to Chapter 86, Land Development Regulations – Appendix A. Schedule of Fees

Mr. Coon explained the purpose of this amendment includes a residential building modification fee for requests received for modifications to a specific code section or reference within the VAUSBC.

The proposed amendment will update the current fee schedule adopted September 2024 to correct scrivener's errors related to fees that were not transposed to the final documents for temporary certificate of occupancy renewals, residential temporary electrical service, residential service upgrades; and to include a fee for re-review of development (zoning) permits for an application change submitted by the applicant/owner.

At a regular meeting of the Louisa County Planning Commission held February 12, 2026, the Planning Commission voted that the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice compels it to make a recommendation of approval to the Louisa County Board of Supervisors on the draft code amendment.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Roy Waters, Mineral District, questioned the reasoning behind small increases in certain fees, asking why they were raised if the work involved has not changed. While acknowledging

the amounts are minor, they expressed concern about the justification for the increases and sought clarification on the need for higher fees.

With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

Supervisor Williams explained that the recent fee increases are part of broader adjustments to building permit fees, some of which were previously overlooked. He acknowledged that fees have risen significantly and admitted he did not anticipate how high they would become when approved. He noted that these costs are typically passed on to homeowners. He also emphasized that while fees may be comparable to or approaching those of nearby counties, Louisa offers much faster and more efficient service. Additionally, he clarified that revenue from these fees must remain within the Community Development department and cannot be used elsewhere, meaning they support operations within that specific area.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barlow, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board approve the proposed amendments to Chapter 86. Land Development Regulations – Appendix A. Schedule of Fees.

Public Hearing – Proposed Real Property Tax Increase for Fiscal Year 2027

Ms. Colvin explained that due to increased property assessments exceeding a 1% threshold, the County is required by state code to hold a public hearing to consider maintaining or adjusting the real estate tax rate. While the budget currently proposes keeping the rate unchanged, the effective tax rate based on reassessments would be lower, highlighting a potential increase in tax burden. No decisions are being made at this time, and a full presentation from the assessor's office will be provided at the next meeting.

Supervisor Barlow clarified that this action does not establish or set the real estate tax rate.

Ms. Colvin agreed, stating that this item is informational only and intended to provide an overview of the current tax rate, the lowered rate based on projected assessments, and the rate if it remains unchanged.

Supervisor Barlow asked why this item was being presented as a public hearing.

Ms. Colvin explained that the County is required by law to hold a public hearing when property assessments increase by more than 1%.

Administrator Goodwin clarified that holding the public hearing preserves the Board's ability to maintain the current tax rate if desired, as the advertised rate cannot be exceeded. He emphasized that no decision is being made at this time and that state law requires the assessment public hearing to be conducted separately from the budget public hearing and adopted separately, allowing the Board time to fully review all information before making a decision.

A Board member asked how the average assessment increase of 6.88%, excluding new construction, compares to increases from the previous two to three years.

Ms. Colvin responded that assessment increases are trending downward, noting they were approximately 8.9% last year and around 13% the year prior, based on her recollection. She stated that more precise figures would be provided by the assessor at the next meeting and clarified that these figures exclude new construction.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Chris Liles, Mineral District, expressed strong concern over rising property assessments, stating they have increased significantly in recent years and are outpacing typical income growth. He argued that these increases are placing a financial burden on residents and questioned the fairness of annual reassessments versus less frequent evaluations. He also criticized the assessment process for not accounting for factors like proximity to data centers and transmission lines, which he believes negatively impact property values. Mr. Liles urged the Board to consider tax relief measures, warning that without action, the effective increase in tax burden will be even higher than reported.

Mr. Bruce Tenney, Cuckoo District, expressed concern over significant increases in both his property taxes and the County's overall budget, noting his taxes have nearly doubled since 2020 while the budget has grown substantially. He argued that continued budget growth is unsustainable and urged the Board to change its approach by setting firm budget limits and requiring departments to operate within those constraints. Mr. Tenney recommended reducing spending on non-essential projects, limiting new hires, improving efficiency, and considering the use of technology. He also advocated for using increased revenues, such as those from data centers, to provide tax relief rather than expanding government spending. Overall, he called for greater fiscal restraint and a focus on easing the financial burden on residents.

Ms. Vicky Hart, Louisa District (Town of Louisa), expressed frustration over significant increases in her property assessment, noting it has more than doubled and far exceeds her home's original value. She described her unsuccessful appeal, stating assessments are being driven by higher-priced purchases from out-of-state buyers. Ms. Hart argued that current tax rebates do not offset the rising tax burden and emphasized that residents are effectively still experiencing tax increases despite those measures.

With no one else wishing to speak, Chairman Adams closed the public hearing and brought it back to the Board for discussion.

This item does not require action at this time. The Assessor will provide an overview of the assessment process at the next meeting, along with a public hearing on the proposed FY2027 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

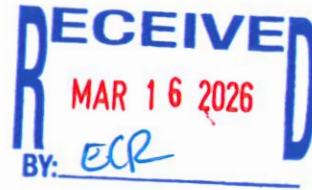
On the motion Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adjourn the March 16, 2026, meeting at 7:27 p.m.

BY ORDER OF:
DUANE A. ADAMS, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

APPENDIX A

Letter Requesting Censure and Bylaw Amendment

Travis A Dye
155 Old Farm Hollow
Mineral, VA 23117
travisadye@gmail.com
540-205-5981



Date: March 5, 2026

To:

Louisa County Board of Supervisors
c/o Christian R. Goodwin, Clerk
1 Woolfolk Avenue
Louisa, VA 23093

Subject: Request for Censure of Chair Duane Adams and Bylaw Amendment to Strengthen Decorum Enforcement

Dear Members of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors,

I write to request that the Board (1) adopt a **formal censure** of Chair Duane Adams for conduct that violated the Board's **Standing Rules of Procedure (Bylaws)** during the March, 2nd 2026 public comment period, and (2) consider a **targeted bylaw amendment** to ensure the Board's enforcement tools align with the full scope of conduct prohibited under the Bylaws.

Summary of Incident

During the public comment session on, March, 2nd 2026 an attendee spoke out of turn from the audience. Removal of that individual was procedurally appropriate under the Board's rules for public participation (**Sections 2-4 and 2-7**). However, after the attendee stated, "you're not my daddy," the Chair replied, "No, 'cause I'd have whipped your ass, son." This language is **profane, personal, and threatening in tone**, contrary to the Bylaws' decorum requirements.

Bylaw Violations and Chair's Heightened Duty

- **Section 1-3 – Conduct and Decorum.** The Bylaws require the Board to maintain "the highest degree of order and decorum" and expressly prohibit **personal attacks**

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and **profane, obscene, or vulgar language**. The quoted remark violates this standard.

- **Section 2-1.1(a) – Duties of the Chair.** The Chair bears a **heightened duty** to conduct meetings, preserve order, and model compliance with the Bylaws. Rather than de-escalating, the Chair escalated the exchange.
- **Section 2-2 – Parliamentary Authority.** Where the Bylaws are silent on a specific procedure for decorum breaches, the Board may proceed under **Robert's Rules** and its own authority to regulate proceedings, including considering a **censure resolution**.

Note on Section 3-2. As drafted, **Section 3-2 ties censure + fine (up to \$500) to unauthorized disclosure of Closed Session information.** I am **not** invoking Section 3-2's fine provision here, because this incident does **not** involve a Closed Session disclosure. Instead, I seek **censure** under **Sections 1-3, 2-1.1(a), and 2-2.**

Requested Board Action (Censure)

Pursuant to the Board's authority under **Section 2-2**, and based on the standards in **Sections 1-3 and 2-1.1(a)**, I respectfully request that the Board:

1. **Adopt a formal censure** of Chair Adams for escalating a confrontation and using profane/personal language after the attendee's "you're not my daddy" remark, which violated the Bylaws' decorum standards.
 2. **Assign the Vice-Chair (or a Chair pro tempore)** to preside over this agenda item so that the accused Chair does not preside over their own disciplinary matter (consistent with the Bylaws' officer framework).
 3. Provide the Chair **notice and an opportunity to be heard** and schedule the item for deliberation on an upcoming agenda consistent with the Board's rules.
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In addition to censure, I respectfully request the Board to pursue the following remedial steps, all of which further the **Section 1-3** mandate for dignity and order:

- A **formal public apology** by the Chair at the next regular meeting.
- A written **commitment to adhere** to the conduct requirements of **Sections 1-3, 2-2, and 2-4** going forward.

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- **Refresher training** for the Chair on de-escalation and presiding protocols during public comment/hearings.
 - Inclusion of the censure and remedial actions in the **official minutes/record** of the Board.
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Bylaw Improvement Request (Amendment to Clarify Sanctions for Decorum Violations)

To align enforcement tools with the full scope of prohibited conduct, I also request the Board **amend the Bylaws** (per **Section 4-1**) to expressly authorize a **censure** and, if the Board finds it appropriate, a **modest fine** for **any proven violation of Section 1-3 (Conduct & Decorum)**—not solely for **unauthorized Closed Session disclosures** under **Section 3-2** (In accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1400). Doing so would:

- Clarify that the Board may impose proportionate consequences when **personal attacks, profane/vulgar language, or other decorum breaches** occur in open session.
 - Harmonize sanctions with the Bylaws' overarching requirement that proceedings be conducted with **integrity, dignity, and order**. **Suggested path:** Place a draft amendment on a published agenda and adopt by the **two-thirds vote** required in **Section 4-1** after Board review and public visibility.
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Conclusion

Upholding decorum is essential to the public's trust. The requested **censure** (with restorative measures) addresses the specific incident under the **current** Bylaws, while the **bylaw improvement** ensures future incidents are governed by clear, consistent, and appropriately scaled enforcement tools.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please enter this letter into the official record and schedule it for consideration on an upcoming agenda.

Respectfully submitted,
Travis A Dye

