



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, May 4, 2026
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the May 4, 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; Wanda Colvin, Deputy County Administrator; Patricia Smith, County Attorney; William Newman, Assistant County Attorney; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Griff Carmichael, Director of Human Resources; Linda Buckler, Director of Community Development; Tom Egeland, Deputy Director of Community 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)(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 4th day of May 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 4th day of May 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 Williams 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 Resolution Authorizing a Budget Supplement for Legal Expenses Associated with the Valley Link Transmission Line to New Business/Action Items

MINUTES APPROVAL

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2026

On the motion of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor McCotter, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026, regular meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL

Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the Second Half of April 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 second half of April 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 Sheriff’s Department to Proceed with FY2027 Vehicle Replacement Capital Project
2. Resolution – Authorizing a Supplement to the Sheriff’s Office Budget for Asset Forfeitures
3. Resolution – Authorizing Holly Grove Volunteer Fire Department to Proceed with Lights & Heater Tubes for Bays Capital Project
4. Resolution – Authorizing a Pass-Through Appropriation for Insurance Proceeds

RECOGNITIONS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**Presentation – Louisa County Historical Society**

Ms. Katelyn Coughlan, Executive Director of the Louisa County Historical Society, provided an update on the organization’s tourism growth, community engagement efforts, and upcoming events. She shared that the Historical Society became a certified tourist information center last year and adjusted its operating hours in January 2026 to better accommodate working residents and visitors.

Coughlan reported a significant increase in tourism, noting that visitation from January through April 2026 increased by 176% compared to the same period in 2025. The largest increase came from out-of-county Virginia visitors, many of whom visited due to the statewide Virginia 250 Passport Program. She explained that more than half of the 84 out-of-county Virginia visitors this year specifically came because the Historical Society participates in the passport initiative, which encourages travel to historical sites across Virginia through passport stamps and incentive prizes.

She also highlighted several recent community events and educational programs, including participation in the Scotchtown Fiber Festival, Heritage Day activities featuring living history demonstrations, and hands-on educational programs for Louisa County students. The Historical Society hosted fourth-grade students for colonial demonstrations and welcomed kindergarten students to the museum for interactive history activities.

Coughlan concluded by previewing upcoming events, including Jack Jouett Day, Juneteenth celebrations, the African-American Heritage Festival, and Fourth of July festivities connected to Virginia’s 250th anniversary celebrations.

During Board discussion, Supervisor McCotter asked whether there were other Virginia 250 Passport locations in Louisa County. Coughlan explained that the Historical Society is currently the county's only passport participant and noted that the program has successfully encouraged travelers passing through the area to stop and visit Louisa County.

Additional comments were made regarding the connection between historical fiber-making demonstrations and the county's modern broadband fiber expansion project, with discussion centering on how the comparison helps illustrate technological evolution and historical education for students.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

Resolution - Authorizing a Budget Supplement for Legal Expenses Associated with the Valley Link Transmission Line to New Business/Action Items

Chairman Adams asked for the resolution to be read aloud.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET SUPPLEMENT FOR LEGAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE VALLEY LINK TRANSMISSION LINE

WHEREAS, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on Monday, March 16, unanimously voted to approve a resolution in opposition to the Valley Link project in Louisa County; and

WHEREAS, the board would like to allocate funding for potential legal expenses associated with the Valley Link Transmission Line in the amount of \$250,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 4th day of May 2026 that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors authorizes a budget supplement in the amount of \$250,000 to the County Attorney's Contingent Legal Fees Budget (10012210-431530) for potential costs associated with the Valley Link Transmission Project. The source of funding is General Fund Balance.

Board members clarified that appropriating funds for the project does not necessarily mean the entire amount will be spent, but rather that the funds are being budgeted and would only be used if legal expenses are incurred.

Staff noted that Louisa County is in the process of utilizing outside counsel and that several neighboring counties are expected to participate collaboratively, with the proposed appropriation matching the \$250,000 already allocated by Goochland County.

Discussion also emphasized the importance of a regional approach among surrounding counties in addressing the Valley Link project.

Supervisors noted that Louisa County recently hosted a regional summit for nine counties and that most participating localities believe collaboration will provide a stronger collective response than acting independently.

Additional comments recognized the active involvement of citizens and emphasized that the Board has heard and understands residents' concerns regarding the Valley Link proposal. Board members stated they are actively working collaboratively and taking steps they believe will best represent and address community concerns.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize a budget supplement in the amount of \$250,000 to the County Attorney's Contingent Legal Fees Budget (10012210-431530) for potential costs associated with the Valley Link Transmission Project. The source of funding is General Fund Balance.

Resolution – To appropriate the Fiscal Year 2027 Operational and Maintenance Budget

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 County budget was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on April 27, 2026. The Code of Virginia requires that an appropriation of the budget be granted by the Board of Supervisors before obligations can be made to cover the estimated expenditures.

The Board of Supervisors, being fiscally responsible, does appropriate the approved Operational and Maintenance Budget in the amount of \$186,206,666.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to appropriate the Fiscal Year 2027 Operational and Maintenance budget.

Resolution – To appropriate the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Improvement Plan Budget

The Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Improvement Plan budget was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on April 27 2026. The Code of Virginia requires that an appropriation of the budget be granted by the Board of Supervisors before obligations can be made to cover the estimated expenditures.

The Board of Supervisors has approved a budget of \$14,688,036 for Capital Improvement Projects.

Supervisor Barlow discussed the inclusion of school capital improvement projects within the FY27 capital budget, specifically focusing on funding for school bleachers. Questions were raised regarding whether the bleacher project had previously been removed from the budget after discussions with school officials. Supervisor Barlow stated that Mr. Straley had indicated the project would be removed because funding had already been secured elsewhere, creating confusion as to why it remained included in the FY27 budget.

Staff explained that no formal request to remove the project had yet been received from school administration or the finance director. It was further clarified that although funds could be

appropriated in the budget, the School Board would still need to return to the Board of Supervisors for approval before proceeding with the project and expending the funds.

Board members discussed the option of appropriating the funds now and later de-obligating them if it is confirmed the project no longer requires county funding. Additional comments emphasized the importance of clarifying the discrepancy while acknowledging there was sufficient time before the start of FY27 to resolve the matter. Staff agreed to follow up with school officials and report back at the next meeting regarding the status of the bleacher project funding.

On the motion of Supervisor Williams, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to FUND 2301 and 0303 - CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS for these projects, which monies are to be expended in accordance with 15.2-407(G) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, for purposes authorized and approved by the Board of Supervisors.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Patrick Henry District

Supervisor Barnes raised concerns regarding panhandling activity at the Walmart/Lowe's intersection at Zion Crossroads, describing a recent incident in which a driver nearly caused a serious accident after stopping abruptly when approached by an individual requesting money in the median. He requested that the County Attorney review whether the County could implement restrictions similar to those adopted in other localities, emphasizing the public safety concerns associated with individuals standing in medians and approaching vehicles in traffic.

Supervisor Barnes also revisited prior discussions regarding the use of nonviolent inmates for roadside litter cleanup efforts, noting that the program had changed following COVID-19. He expressed interest in exploring whether those efforts could resume in coordination with County staff and VDOT representatives.

Louisa District

Supervisors Woodward discussed upcoming tourism opportunities associated with the Virginia Scenic Railway and the arrival of the historic steam locomotive to the Town of Louisa. He highlighted that the railway will operate special excursion trips from the Louisa Depot during the last weekend of June and the Fourth of July weekend, drawing visitors from across the country. Supervisors noted that the train excursions have already generated significant interest, with some trips already sold out, and emphasized the unique experience the steam locomotive will provide for residents and visitors alike.

Discussion also focused on the anticipated economic and tourism benefits for Louisa County businesses, particularly within the Town of Louisa and surrounding communities. He encouraged residents to support and promote the event, noting that the excursions are expected to bring substantial visitor traffic into the area.

Supervisor Woodward made additional comments connected to the railway event to broader tourism and community initiatives taking place throughout the county, including increased visitation reported by the Louisa County Historical Society, programming through the Louisa Arts Center, Virginia's 250th anniversary celebrations, and Fourth of July activities. He stated

that these combined efforts are helping strengthen tourism, increase economic activity, and positively impact local businesses throughout Louisa County.

Green Springs District

Supervisor Jones recognized Mayor Ashley Michael for the energy and leadership she has brought to the Town of Louisa. She expressed appreciation for her involvement in community events and stated that her leadership comes at an important time for the town. Additional remarks highlighted excitement surrounding upcoming events and community activities, with comments noting strong public enthusiasm and support for continued collaboration between the Town and County.

Mineral District

Chairman Adams reported that on May 1, Louisa County joined Culpeper, Fluvanna, Goochland, and Orange Counties in filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding PJM Interconnection's proposed expedited power generation approval process. He explained that the filing seeks to formally include the counties as parties in the case, ensuring they have a voice in the proceedings, and requests several modifications to the proposed process, including recognition of Virginia counties' siting authority, notification and comment opportunities for host localities, and greater transparency regarding proposed generation locations and transmission needs.

Chairman Adams emphasized that the filing does not oppose any specific transmission line or power plant project, noting that transmission routing and approvals remain under the authority of the Virginia State Corporation Commission, where Louisa County intends to continue participating actively.

He further reiterated the Board's commitment to representing and protecting county residents regarding the Valley Link proposal, referencing the Board's recent appropriation of \$250,000 toward legal expenses associated with the matter. Chairman Adams stated that the Board has heard and understands citizen concerns and will continue working collaboratively at the local, regional, state, and federal levels as additional developments occur.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Supervisor Woodward announced that the Commission on Aging would be hosting its annual Senior and Caregiver Picnic on Thursday, May 14, at 11:00 a.m. at the Betty Queen Center.

Board Appointments

(None)

County Administrator's Report

Administrator Goodwin provided a brief update on ongoing projects and upcoming events since the Board had met the previous week. He reported continued progress on the broadband expansion project, noting that approximately 86% of total passings had been completed regionally and that Louisa County remains ahead of the region with nearly 100% of local passings completed.

He also reminded the public about the upcoming Special Needs and Autism Awareness Festival scheduled for June 6.

In response to Supervisor Barnes' earlier comments regarding panhandling concerns, Administrator Goodwin noted that the Board adopted a panhandling ordinance in 2021 and stated staff would review the ordinance to ensure it still adequately addresses current concerns. He encouraged reports of ongoing issues so enforcement efforts could be coordinated appropriately.

Additionally, he addressed roadside litter cleanup efforts, explaining that inmates from the regional jail had resumed trash pickup work last year after several years without the program due to COVID-related limitations. He stated that staff had contacted the regional jail superintendent to determine whether the program would continue this year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution - Approving the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads and the Construction Priority List for Louisa County

Mr. Scott Thornton presented the amended Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads, explaining that revisions discussed during the prior work session had been incorporated into the plan. Updates included the addition of roadway projects and funding allocations within the countywide traffic services category, including annual funding commitments for future fiscal years.

During Board discussion, supervisors thanked Mr. Thornton for his service to Louisa County and acknowledged his responsiveness to constituent concerns and willingness to meet with Board members in the field regarding transportation issues. It was noted that Mr. Thornton would be leaving his current position to serve as Resident Engineer in Petersburg, and Board members expressed appreciation for his work and wished him success in his new role.

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 of Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2026/2027 through 2031/2032) and the Construction Priority List (2026/2027) for Louisa County.

Ordinance – Amending Louisa County Code Chapter 70, Taxation Article II-In Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Totally Disabled Section 70-35

Commissioner Stacey Fletcher presented a proposed ordinance amendment to Chapter 70 of the Louisa County Code regarding Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Totally Disabled. She explained that the proposed amendment would increase the qualifying income limits by 10%, raising the maximum income threshold from \$50,000 to \$55,000 and adjusting the associated income qualification tiers accordingly.

Chairman Adams opened the public hearing.

Ms. Susan Fletcher, Louisa District/Chairperson of the Commission on Aging, spoke in support of the proposed amendments to the elderly and disabled real estate tax relief program. She expressed appreciation to the Board for proactively increasing the income thresholds and adjusting the sliding scale without prompting from the Commission, noting that the changes would help more seniors remain in their homes and afford their real estate taxes. She also mentioned that the Commission may provide additional recommendations in the future based on programs implemented in other counties. Ms. Fletcher further announced the upcoming Commission on Aging picnic scheduled for May 14 and noted that County staff would use the event as an opportunity to educate residents about the tax relief changes.

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

During Board discussion following the public hearing, supervisors discussed outreach efforts to notify residents and local churches about the expanded eligibility requirements. Staff confirmed that informational flyers and publications would be distributed, the application deadline would be extended to June 1, and outreach would be made directly to nine applicants who previously did not qualify because their income exceeded the prior \$50,000 threshold. Staff stated that those applicants would now qualify under the proposed changes and emphasized efforts to ensure as many eligible residents as possible are informed about the program.

On the motion of Supervisor Barlow, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board vote to approve an amendment to Chapter 70, Taxation-Article II- Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Totally Disabled Section 70-35 increasing the income levels to qualify for relief by ten percent.

Resolution - To Approve/Deny Conditional Use Permit Request - CUP2026-02 Zion United Methodist Church, Applicant/Owner; David McWilliams, Agent

Mr. Tom Egeland presented Conditional Use Permit 2026-02 for a proposed farmers market at Zion United Methodist Church, located at the intersection of Zion Road and Columbia Road within the Zion Crossroads Growth Area. He explained that the proposed market aligns with the goals of the Louisa County 2040 Comprehensive Plan by supporting agriculture, expanding opportunities for local agricultural businesses, and encouraging economic growth. Staff noted that the Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the permit with 11 conditions following a public hearing in April.

During Board discussion, supervisors asked questions regarding the permit requirements, allowable activities, operating days and hours, and the proposed use of music at the market.

Discussion focused particularly on whether outdoor music should be permitted. Staff clarified that only non-amplified acoustic music would be allowed outdoors, while amplified music would be restricted to indoor use.

Supervisor Jones discussed concerns raised by nearby residents regarding noise impacts and explored clarifying language related to acceptable outdoor performances.

Questions were also raised regarding the market's operating schedule and vendor limitations. Staff confirmed that the guiding procedures included in the application narrative would limit

operations primarily to Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and that vendors would be limited to agricultural-related products in accordance with the County's definition of a farmers market. Staff further clarified that mass-produced items and multi-level marketing products would not be permitted.

Pastor David McWilliams explained that the vision for the farmers market is to create a community gathering space that encourages relationship-building and supports local agriculture. He stated that the church intends to provide family-friendly amenities such as playground access and food trucks and is also pursuing participation in programs that would match SNAP and EBT benefits to increase access to fresh food for lower-income residents. Pastor McWilliams emphasized that the church wanted to be respectful of neighboring properties and expressed willingness to accommodate additional conditions related to outdoor music if needed.

Board members expressed strong support for the project, noting positive feedback from residents and the potential benefits to the community. Additional discussion clarified that controlled substances such as marijuana and hemp products would not be permitted under the approved farmers market use without a separate conditional use permit amendment.

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 of Supervisor Jones, seconded by Supervisor Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the request for Conditional Use Permit 2026-02, Zion United Methodist Church, Applicant/Owner; David McWilliams, Agent with the following eleven (11) conditions:

1. Lighting. All design and use of exterior lighting shall comply with the International Dark-Sky Association and shall be labeled as such on the site plan sketch.
2. Noise. Sound shall not exceed levels of 65dB during daytime and 55dB at night when measured at the property line.
3. Permits. The applicant and/or vendors shall secure all necessary permits and approvals from the Louisa County Community Development Department, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) as applicable.
4. Land Disturbance. If land disturbance, which includes the addition of gravel, asphalt, or the grading of land, meets or exceeds 10,000 square feet of area, an erosion and sediment control plan must be prepared and submitted to the County for review and approval, prior to any land disturbing activities commencing on-site.
5. Fireworks. The use of fireworks associated with the farmers' market is prohibited.
6. Outdoor Music. There will be no amplified outdoor music. All amplified music will be indoors, abiding by Chapter 51 – Noise of the County Code.
7. Cemetery. The market manager will be responsible for ensuring respectful use of the church cemetery for the duration of the Farmers' Market.

8. Vendors. The Farmers' Market will only accept vendors in accordance with the county definition in County Code 86-13 "Farmers' Market." They will not permit mass produced or multi-level marketing items.

9. Guiding Procedures. The Farmers' Market will abide by the Guiding Procedures included within their application (copy attached).

10. Inspections. The Board of Supervisors or their designated representative shall have the right to inspect the site at any reasonable time without prior notice.

11. Permit Revocation. Violation of any conditions contained herein shall be grounds for revocation of the Conditional Use Permit.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Supervisor Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adjourn the May 4, 2026, meeting at 6:58 p.m.

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