



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, October 21, 2024
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
3:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Adams called the special meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 3:31 p.m.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tommy J. Barlow	Mountain Road District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
Fitzgerald A. Barnes	Patrick Henry District Supervisor	Absent	
Christopher McCotter	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
H. Manning Woodward, III	Louisa County Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
R. T. Williams	Jackson District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
Duane A. Adams	Mineral District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM
Rachel G. Jones	Green Springs District Supervisor	Present	3:30 PM

Others Present: Christian Goodwin, County Administrator; Patricia Smith, County Attorney; Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator; Wanda Colvin, Deputy County Administrator/Finance Director; and Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk

Legislative Representatives: Senator Creigh Deeds; Delegate Buddy Fowler; Delegate Amy Laufer; David Blount, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; and Dean Lynch, Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Discussion - 2025 Legislative Priorities

Chairman Adams provided some opening remarks and stated the purpose of the meeting is to provide the legislators the opportunity to bring the Board up to date on current happenings from their district and to allow the Board to present their list of legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

The focus of this year's discussion was environmental protection, local control over land use and associated decisions, and equal revenue sharing. One top priority is obtaining state funding to combat harmful algal blooms in Lake Anna, which has been an ongoing issue for the region. Other significant priorities include funding for infrastructure maintenance and development, such as buoys on Lake Anna and preventing the spread of invasive hydrilla. The County collaborates with regional organizations like the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission, ensuring its priorities are aligned with broader regional goals for sustainable development, digital equity, and public health. These legislative requests underscore Louisa's commitment to enhancing environmental sustainability, improving safety, and supporting essential community services.

The following legislative priorities were discussed in detail and are scheduled to be adopted by the Board at their October 21, 2024, regular meeting:

Local Zoning Control

The County firmly supports maintaining local control over land use and associated decisions. Local governments are the closest and most accessible form of government for their citizens, and are more connected with the land use issues and associated challenges facing their communities. As such, localities are best positioned to undertake planning and land use decisions. The Commonwealth should staunchly resist preempting or circumventing land use authorities and maintain/support for local authority in this regard.

Broadband

Internet has become a necessity, yet citizens in many localities have insufficient connectivity. Louisa was the first locality in the region to partner with multiple utility providers to provide end-user fiber on a County-wide basis, and the County supported the effort with a commitment of up to \$15 million in local dollars.

The County supports state (and federal) efforts to offset further funding requirements and to bolster cooperative efforts (among utility providers and other entities) and concerns such as easement usage associated with deployment.

State Funding Levels and Flexibility

The Commonwealth has funding responsibilities for several local services such as law enforcement (through the State Compensation Board) and education (through the Standards of Quality). In many cases, localities supplement this funding, and in some cases that supplement is significant. In Louisa, the state funds only 26 of the 55 full time and 16 part time deputy positions in the Sheriff's Office. When the state provides salary increase funding, it calculates the state funding amount on that number of positions, but sometimes compels the same increases for non-state funded positions. This is an unfunded mandate.

It is requested that the state allow flexibility in the application of state revenues (Compensation Board and otherwise) for compensation increases across all positions. Local governing bodies would have the choice (and therefore bear the responsibility for their decision) to either match the state amount for all positions or to spread state funding across all positions.

The County also urges the state to continue efforts to increase funding for compensation board-funded and Standards of Quality-funded positions and functions.

State Library Funding

State aid for public libraries in the Commonwealth has not been fully funded since 2001. Libraries rely on this funding for books, media, and digital content. Progress toward full funding has been made over the past several years and year two of the governor's biennial budget includes full state funding. The County supports this effort.

Buoy Maintenance and Hydrilla Treatment on Public Waters

The Lake Anna Advisory Committee (LAAC) is responsible for buoys on the public waters of Lake Anna, and also treats the lake for hydrilla, an invasive and submerged aquatic weed which can clog waterways, damage infrastructure, and reduce flows. With regard to buoys, the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) compels ongoing maintenance and standards for placement. The presence of hydrilla is a statewide issue, and mitigation in each body of water plays an important role in minimizing transference to other resources.

Freshwater Harmful Algae Blooms

The County is home to Lake Anna, the third largest freshwater lake in Virginia. The lake has experienced Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) over the past several years. HAB's are also materially impacting other bodies of water in the Commonwealth, including Lake Gaston and the James River. HAB alerts have a material impact on public usage of our natural assets and this in turn impacts economic assets which rely thereon. These impacts include tourism-based operations such as vacation rentals, restaurants, marinas, and many related offerings. Costs to mitigate HAB in Lake Anna have been estimated at ~\$20M, and the County is grateful for the past funding support by General Assembly. Ongoing support in future years is requested to combat this issue.

Furthermore, freshwater monitoring in the state is minimally funded and decentralized. The County supports state efforts to formalize freshwater monitoring and adequately fund the same to keep public waters safe and protect those enjoying these resources.

Equal Revenue Authority

The County of Louisa gratefully acknowledges prior efforts by the General Assembly to address revenue generation inequalities, and fully supports further county rights to raise the same revenues as cities.

Jail Costs

Louisa County is a member jurisdiction of the Central Virginia Regional Jail (CVRJ) and is grateful for the recent increases in jail per diem rates approved by the General Assembly. Actual daily costs are nonetheless still significantly higher than reimbursement levels, and the County supports further improvements.

To offset future surprises and to fairly share future cost increases, the County supports continued increases in cost sharing, or indexing per diem costs as a fixed percentage of the actual statewide daily expense average as set forth by the state in the annual Jail Cost Report.

Small Modular Reactors

Virginia is a leader in clean energy production with over 30% of the state's power based on zero emission nuclear generation. Nuclear power provides reliable, competitively priced electricity to consumers in the Commonwealth, and low energy costs play a critical role in maintaining Virginia's stature as an attractive location for business. The Commonwealth is also home to numerous facilities and operations in the nuclear energy sector including BWX Technologies (engineering), Framatome (industrial computing and regulatory compliance), Newport News Shipbuilding and many others. These entities sustain thousands of jobs throughout the Commonwealth which support Virginia families, generate substantial tax dollars, and trigger beneficial relationships with higher education in the state to train the future nuclear workforce.

Dominion Energy operates the North Anna Nuclear Power Station in the County, and has set "net zero" emissions goals for its overall generation portfolio. Achieving these goals represents a substantial benefit to the environment and will require diversification of generation resources beyond that which is achievable by wind, solar, and energy storage alone. Additional nuclear generation represents a viable path forward in this important effort. Small Modular Reactors (SMR) represent an innovative, safe alternative to traditional nuclear power stations. Ranging from 50-300MW and fabricated in a factory environment, SMR's incorporate advanced features including scalable output and safe shutdown even in the absence of operator action, and their

reduced complexity results in lower infrastructure requirements. HB894 (2022) directed the Department of Energy to study the development of SMR's and convene a stakeholder group for "promoting the development of advanced small modular reactors in the Commonwealth." Louisa County supports this effort.

Development Road Reviews

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) formerly provided reviews of the internal roads, entrances, and related transportation aspects of development proposals. Following an opinion from the state's Attorney General, this practice was discontinued and localities must now have internal/contract staff to perform these functions. The County supports state efforts to move funding from VDOT to localities to support this increased workload.

ADJOURNMENT

The special legislative meeting ended at 4:52 p.m.

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