



**Board of Supervisors
County of Louisa
Monday, May 2, 2022
Louisa County Public Meeting Room
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Adams called the May 2, 2022 regular meeting of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors to order at 5:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - 6:00 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
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Cuckoo District Supervisor	Present	5:00 PM
Eric F. Purcell	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; Helen Phillips, County Attorney; Chris Coon, Deputy County Administrator; Kyle Eldridge, Assistant County Attorney; Alexandra Stanley, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk; Wanda Colvin, Finance Director; Andy Wade, Economic Development Director; Scott Raettig, Information Technology Manager; and Griff Carmichael, Human Resources Director.

CLOSED SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. 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) (1) VA Code Ann., for discussion of employment of staff in various departments; and,
2. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (5) VA Code Ann., to discuss a prospective business in the Louisa District where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating in the County; and,
3. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (7) VA Code Ann., for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to potential litigation involving taxation of property in the Cuckoo District; and,
4. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (29) VA Code Ann., for a discussion of a public contract involving property in the Patrick Henry District where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the negotiating position or bargaining strategy of the County.

REGULAR SESSION

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. 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
Willie L. Gentry Jr.	Voter	Yes/Aye
Duane A. Adams	Voter	Yes/Aye
Rachel G. Jones	Voter	Yes/Aye
Eric F. Purcell	Voter	Yes/Aye

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. 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 2nd day of May 2022, 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 2nd day of May 2022, 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.

INVOCATION - MR. ADAMS

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the May 2, 2022 agenda, as amended, with the following changes:

- Added a discussion on recognizing Brandon Smith on his recent accomplishments; and
- Added a resolution proclaiming May of 2022 as Older Americans Month to Consent Agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL**Board of Supervisors (BOS) - Special Called Meeting - Apr 18, 2022 4:00 PM**

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 special meeting.

Board of Supervisors (BOS) - Regular Meeting - Apr 18, 2022 5:00 PM

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 regular meeting.

BILLS APPROVAL

Resolution – To Approve the Bills for the Second Half of April 2022

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the bills for the second half of April 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adopt the Consent Agenda items for May 2, 2022, as follows:

- Resolution – Supporting Dominion Energy's Petition to Virginia State Corporation Commission
- Resolution – A Resolution Authorizing the General Services Department to Proceed with Replacing the HVAC Units at the Human Services Building and Medical Center Using CIP Funding
- Resolution – Proclaiming the Week of May 15 - 21, 2022, as Emergency Medical Services Week
- Resolution – Authorizing the Louisa County Office of Fire & Emergency Services to Proceed with the Fire Apparatus Capital Project for Fiscal Year 2023
- Resolution – Authorizing a Pass through Appropriation for Insurance Proceeds
- Resolution – Recognizing Kate Killham for Her Dedicated Service on the Human Services Advisory Board
- Resolution – Proclaiming May 2022 to be Older Americans Month

RECOGNITIONS

On the motion of Mr. Purcell, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to direct staff to prepare a resolution recognizing Mr. Brandon Smith on his accomplishments and being drafted by the Carolina Panthers.

Resolution – Designating Route 617 (West Green Springs Road) as a Rural Rustic Road

This item was removed from Consent Agenda and from the agenda entirely.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Adams opened the public comment period.

Mr. Roger Smith, Mineral District, spoke about traffic concerns on Chopping Road and presented the Board with signatures of property owners who are in favor of the Board addressing the issue.

Mr. Adams noted that a committee was established to address concerns with through truck traffic on Chalklevel, Chopping and Shannon Hill Road. He said they plan to meet to discuss alternative options with VDOT.

Mr. David Shalloway, Patrick Henry District, encouraged the Board to adopt a local unified fire code and have it tailored to fit the County's needs and demographics.

Ms. Aleta Strickland, Patrick Henry District, noted the county does not have an effective way to address dangerous dogs and no mechanism in place for animals to be contained. She encouraged the Board to update the current Dogs Running at Large.

Mr. Shane Horn, Mineral District, addressed his concerns with the proposed bow-tie intersection at Zion Crossroads.

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

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion – To Consider Amendments to the Bylaws of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Adams stated it has been customary for the Board to request that citizens/speakers provide their name, address, and voting district as part of their introductory remarks for public comment period and public hearing. He noted that since the meetings are archived online, anyone can review the content and by requiring someone to cite their home address becomes a safety issue. He said the requirement for such information is not incorporated in the bylaws and suggested the Board amend the speaker card information to remove the requirement.

Ms. Phillips noted the bylaws mention that a speaker card must be filled out and suggested the Board update the subject matters on the speaker card.

On the motion of Mr. Purcell, seconded by Ms. Jones, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to direct staff to make all pertinent and necessary changes to whatever documentation, including speaker cards, to reflect the change.

Mr. Adams asked if the change would automatically apply to the Planning Commission's speaker cards and public hearing process.

Ms. Phillips said the Planning Commission would have to adopt the changes on their own.

Mr. Barlow expressed how it was beneficial to have some form of contact information for the speakers in case the Board needed to get in touch with them later.

Ms. Phillips suggested they list an email address on the card.

Further discussion ensued regarding appropriate contact information to list on the speaker card.

Mr. Purcell reminded the Board that his motion included that the speaker card list all pertinent and necessary information and should apply to whatever the Board deems essential.

Discussion – Speed Assessment on Route 208 (Courthouse Road)

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board requested VDOT to review previous traffic and speed assessment data for Route 208 (Courthouse Road) to determine if the speed can be reduced. The Board agreed to submit a speed study request, if deemed necessary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**Resolution – To Appropriation the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Plan Budget**

The Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Plan budget was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on April 18, 2022. 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 \$10,840,975 for Capital Improvement Projects as detailed in the attached.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to appropriate the Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Project Funds, 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.

Resolution – To Appropriation the Fiscal Year 2023 Operations and Maintenance Budget

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 County budget was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on April 18, 2022. 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 \$135,317,531.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to appropriate the Fiscal Year 2023 operational and maintenance budget, subject to funds becoming available and monthly review, which monies are to be expended in accordance with SECTION 15.2-407(G) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, for purposes authorized and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Furthermore, that the County Administrator is hereby authorized to adjust up to \$100,000 as per the County's Financial Policies within Fund 100 - General Fund, Fund 105 - Debt Service, Fund 201 - Social Services, Fund 205 -CSA, Fund 225 - Revenue Recovery, Fund 505 Landfill, and Fund 513 Broadband budgets/ Additionally, the Board of Supervisors requests a current financial report from County-funded non-State agencies.

Funding for County funded non-state entities will be released on a quarterly basis but may be

withheld until a Financial Report is provided to the County.

Resolution – Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation to Children's Services Act Funding

The Children's Services Act (CSA) for at-risk youth and families is a law enacted in 1993 that establishes a single state pool of funds to purchase services for at-risk youth and their families. The state funds, combined with local community funds, are managed by local interagency teams who plan and oversee services to youth. The mission of CSA is to create a collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused, and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youth and their families in the Commonwealth. The services provided under CSA are mandated services as prescribed in the Act.

The Fiscal Year 2022 CSA case load projections within contractual services are exceeding budgeted expectations by an additional \$200,000 with the County's local portion being \$88,000, therefore, a budget supplement will be needed.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to authorize a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 to the CSA fund for Contractual Services (20553500-430020). The source of funds is \$112,000 from State Revenue (0205R23-323090) and \$88,000 from General Fund Balance (0100R99-399011).

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee Reports

Barnes reported on the Belcher Solar Committee.

Board Appointments

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to make the following appointments:

- Reappointed Mr. Michael Choate to the Transportation Safety Commission to represent the Patrick Henry District

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Goodwin reported that there were several monthly reports and items of correspondence in the Board packet and reminded the Board of several upcoming events.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution – Approving the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Road System Construction in Louisa County, Virginia

Section 33.2-331 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, provides the opportunity for each county to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in developing a Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads.

The Board of Supervisors had previously agreed to assist in the preparation of this Plan, in accordance with VDOT policies and procedures, and participated in a public hearing on the proposed Plan as well as the Construction Priority List on May 2, 2022, after duly advertised so that all citizens of the County had the opportunity to participate in said hearing and to make comments and recommendations concerning the proposed Plan and Priority List.

VDOT representatives appeared before the Board and recommended approval of the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2022/2023 through 2027/2028) and the Construction Priority List (2022/2023) for Louisa County. The Board of Supervisors has carefully weighed the comments of VDOT and Louisa County citizens as to the condition and importance of various secondary roads in the County. The said Plan appears to be in the best interest of the Secondary Road System in Louisa County and of the citizens residing on the Secondary System.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve the Six-Year Plan for Secondary Roads (2022/2023 through 2027/2028) and the Construction Priority List (2022/2023) for Louisa County.

Ordinance – Amending Louisa County Code Section 14-28-Dogs Not to be Off Owner’s Premises Except When Under Control

Ms. Phillips stated the existing code section regulates dogs running at large in Louisa County during the months of April, May, and June and explained how the proposed amendments would determine that dogs running at large in the county would be unlawful at any time or 12-months out of the year. She noted the amendment further defines what running at large means, and how the proposed ordinance specifically excludes lawful hunting or training dogs, or dogs engaged to assist farming activity, which is defined as raising, managing, and using agricultural animals to provide food, fiber, or transportation. She commented on the violation provision on habitual offenders and explained that any violation of the proposed amendment will result in such actions as confiscation of the dog, written warnings, assessed fines and court summons.

Ms. Phillips said since the hearing has been publicized, there has been some concern about the animal shelter and how the proposed amendment will impact the shelter’s daily operations and the need to hire additional staff.

Mr. Gentry asked how staff concluded that a fine will be issued within 2-years rather than 1-year for habitual offenders.

Ms. Phillips said the period can be changed.

Mr. Barlow asked how the committee arrived at the \$100 fine.

Ms. Phillips said she would have to verify, but she believes a \$100 fine is the maximum allowable amount described in the state code.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Andrew Neilson, Louisa District, spoke in support of the proposed amendment and asked

that they make sure that video surveillance is credible in any case.

Ms. Kara Coleman, Mineral District, President Longview Shores HOA, spoke in support of the proposed amendment.

Ms. Jennifer Carter, Mineral District, gave instances where dogs running at large have prevented her from enjoying her own property and spoke in support of the proposed amendment.

Ms. Shelia Bernard, Green Springs District, thanked the Board for their time and consideration and encouraged the Board to make sure that video surveillances is credible in any case and to look at increasing the fine.

Goodwin read a letter in support of the proposed amendment. (See appendix A)

Mr. Adams asked if Chief Ellison could approach the podium to answer questions by the Board.

Ms. Adams asked if the definition for dogs running at large is separate from vicious dogs.

Chief Ellison replied yes and noted there is a separate section in the state code that specifically addresses vicious dogs.

Mr. Adams asked if the proposed amendments will be effective in reducing the number of dogs running at large.

Chief Ellison replied yes. She said not only is going to greatly reduce the number of dogs running at large, it will also reduce medical expense incurred by the Sheriff's Office when picking up an injured dog from the road. She noted that it should also reduce the number of dogs running loose taken to the shelter.

Mr. Adams asked what the legal ramifications are if the animal control officer returns the dog to its home versus the shelter when the owner is not home.

Chief Ellison stated that it depends on the situation at home. She said if the property has a safe and secure pin, they will return the animal to the property, but if there is no way to secure the dog, then it will get taken to the animal shelter until it can be picked up by its owner.

Mr. Purcell asked if the proposed amendment provides enough power to the animal control officers to make an effective difference.

Chief Ellison replied yes.

Mr. Goodwin asked how often the animal control division communicates with the animal shelter regarding capacity at the shelter.

Chief Ellison said the animal shelter manager is extremely helpful at keeping the animal control division informed on capacity at the shelter. She said she typically stops by the shelter daily to also check on capacity and so does her staff.

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

Mr. Adams asked if Ms. Phillips had an update on the fine amount.

Ms. Phillips said enabling legislation says the maximum civil fine is \$100. Ms. Phillips said she understands that the amount may not be enough of a penalty, but that's the maximum that can be issued.

Mr. Adams asked if the enabling legislation prohibits a locality from issuing the fine at the second violation verses the third.

Ms. Phillips said the code states that the maximum civil fine is \$100 per violation.

Mr. Williams said he understands the people with the habitual dogs running at large, but there are people that have dogs that run at large infrequently, and when they are loose do not cause any trouble. He said he is afraid that if they make the rules any tighter than those who experience infrequent situations will get penalized. He said the proposed amendments were created to offer peace for those who are not habitual violators.

Mr. Barnes said the proposed amendments are a great starting point and the community will let the Board know where changes need to be made.

Ms. Jones said she concurs with Mr. Barnes and Mr. Williams sentiments.

Mr. Purcell motioned to adopt the ordinance as presented. Seconded by Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Williams asked about the term confiscated being used within the code and asked for clarification.

Chief Ellison stated it is specifically defined in the state code that if the animal control officer confiscates and impounds an animal there is a direct and immediate threat to their life or is in immediate danger. She noted the word confiscate is not being properly used in the proposed amendment. She said they can take possession of the dog and return it to its rightful owner.

Mr. Adams asked if video surveillance of a dog running at large be used as evidence under the law.

Chief Ellison said it can be used as evidence as long as the individual who took the video is willing to testify. She said she cannot testify on someone else's behalf but can go with the individual to the magistrate's office to fill out the criminal complaint to testify.

Mr. Purcell said withdraws his motion on the floor since he does not know what they are voting on based on the changes. Mr. Barnes withdrew his second.

Mr. Purcell asked if the changes warrant another hearing.

Ms. Phillips said no.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board approves the following amendments to Section 14-28 of Chapter 14, Article II of the Louisa County Code:

Sec. 14-28. Dogs not to be off owner's premises except when under control; enforcement.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any dog in this county to run at large at any time. It shall be the duty of the animal control officer to enforce the provisions of this section.
- (b) For the purpose of this section, a dog shall be deemed to be "running at large" while roaming or running off the property of its owner or custodian and not under its owner's or custodian's immediate control; provided, that no dog shall be deemed to be running at large in violation of this section if it shall be engaged in lawful hunting or training for hunting under the direction of its owner or custodian and shall thereafter stray from lawful hunting or training for hunting; or if the dog shall be engaged to assist farming activity, which is defined as raising, managing and using agricultural animals to provide food, fiber, or transportation, provided, that such owner or custodian shall place such dog under his immediate control within a reasonable time.
- (c) A violation of this section may result in such dog being taken into possession by the animal control officer and returned to the owner with a written warning.
- (d) A Habitual Offender, three (3) or more violations within two (2) years, will result in a \$100 fine.
- (e) A violation within two (2) years of receiving the fine will result in a court summons pursuant to Louisa County Code Sec. 14-51 for an unlawful act that constitutes a Class 4 misdemeanor.

Mr. Barnes said he would like to see an update from the animal control division 6 months from the effective date of July 1, 2022.

Ms. Phillips said she will need another motion from the Board as to when they would like for the proposed amendment to take effect.

On the motion of Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barnes, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to have the proposed amendment to take effect July 1, 2022.

Mr. Williams took a moment to recognize the staff at the animal shelter.

Mr. Gentry recognized Mr. John Nelson on his 45 years of service at VDOT.

Ordinance – Amending Louisa County Code Chapter 70, Taxation Article II-In Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Totally Disabled 70-33(4) & 70-35

Louisa County Code Chapter 70- Taxation-Article II- Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Totally Disabled Section 70-33 (4), currently states the net combined income limit shall not exceed \$40,000.00 and 70-35 sets forth a matrix for exemption levels. The proposed amendments will modify the income limit from \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 and update the exemption matrix.

Mr. Adams opened the public hearing.

Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Williams read comments aloud that were submitted to the County on the tax relief for the elderly and disabled. (See Appendix A).

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

On the motion of Mr. Barlow, seconded by Mr. Purcell, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to approve an amendment to Chapter 70, Taxation-Article II- Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly or Totally Disabled Section 70-33 (4) modifying the amount from \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 & 70-35 modifying the exemption matrix.

Sec. 70-35. - Same—Amount.

The person qualifying for and claiming exemption shall be relieved on the qualifying dwelling and land in an amount as specified below:

Income (\$)	Net Worth (\$)				
	0— 35,000	35,001— 70,000	70,001— 100,000	100,001— 150,000	150,001— 200,000
0 — 18,000	100%	90 100%	80 95%	75 90%	65 80%
18,001— 29,000	90 95%	80 85%	75 80%	65 70%	55 60%
29,001— 40,000	80 85%	75 80%	65 70%	55 60%	50 55%
40,001— 50,000	75%	70%	60%	50%	45%

Except that the relief shall not exceed \$2,000 on any one qualifying dwelling and land.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barnes requested the Fire & EMS Chief provide a pros and cons in having a unified fire code for Louisa County at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Barlow said along those same lines, he would like to know the difference between the VA State Fire Code and the International Fire Code.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Williams, which carried by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to adjourn the May 2, 2022, Board meeting at 7:18 p.m.

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

From: [JOHN MANDERBACH](#)
To: [Alexandra Stanley](#)
Subject: Leash Law
Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 4:17:25 PM

CAUTION: External email

John and Deborah Manderbach are in favor of the leash law, we reside in Louisa County @ 5079 South Spotswood Trail. Please address this before the board as we are unable to attend. Thank you and best regards, John and Deborah Manderbach

From: [T.T](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Attn: A. Stanley, BOS public input
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 10:05:23 PM

CAUTION: External email

I wish to provide citizen input to the upcoming May 2 BOS consideration of the "dogs running at large" ordinance. Please add my comments herein to the record.

I fully support all government efforts to ensure that animals belonging to property owners remain on the owner's property year-round. If off of the property, the animal should be leashed or be in the immediate presence of and under the control of the owner or guardian. Although the "good 'ol days" of your pet wandering freely were wonderful, they are not appropriate anymore. There are too many people, too many cars and too many animals now. Dogs running loose present a safety and health hazard to humans and other animals they may encounter. Further, neither neighbors nor Animal Control should be responsible for containing animals - especially repeat offenders. I have also had at least two occasions in Louisa County where I nearly hit dogs with my car on a road because they were not contained and were allowed to roam. The County shelter is full and understaffed, and the ACO's are understaffed and spend far too much time on the same animals and problem owners. It's time to put some responsibility on owners, and some penalties for irresponsibility.

I support the ordinance being enacted. Though I abhor the irresponsible running at large and abandonment of hunting dogs that keeps the County shelter full and landowners upset, I understand you can't take on the hunting lobby in this forum. I also think the ordinance gives too many "chances" before penalties are imposed. But I fully support this step forward and hope you'll enact it.

Ann Melle
6733 Lawyers Rd
Spotsylvania, VA 22551