

Agenda Item VI. A.

Meeting Date: August 1, 2017

Special Presentation: Commemorative Resolution 2017-0005-CR, honoring
Garry L. Friend, Amherst County Treasurer

COPY



Amherst County Board of Supervisors
County Commemorative Resolution No. 2017-0005-CR

For consideration on June 6, 2017

A COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION, NO. 2017-0005-CR

A commemorative resolution, honoring Garry L. Friend, Amherst County Treasurer, for his exceptional service to Amherst County.

Approved as to form by the County Attorney

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

I. That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia, hereby expresses its profound thanks to Garry L. Friend for his exceptional service to Amherst County, as follows:

WHEREAS, Garry L. Friend first was elected Treasurer of Amherst County for a term beginning January 1, 2012, was re-elected in 2015, and is now in his second term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend over the course of his tenure has made many changes to the operation of the Treasurer's Office that have brought about greater efficiency and accountability in the management of taxpayer dollars and other County funds, and an improved collections process; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend has instituted these performance improvements in three specific areas: (i) office efficiency and controls; (ii) collection efforts; and (iii) service points for taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend improved office efficiency and controls by developing standardized procedures, including balancing all cash accounts with a major emphasis on the establishment of a reconciliation process, creating automated processes in multiple areas and thereby eliminating time intensive manual inputs, and developing a Policies and Procedures Manual tailored to the Treasurer's Office; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend made collection efforts more effective by ensuring use of collection tools such as wage liens and bank liens, and by establishing both an improved format to govern monthly payments on delinquent taxes and a tracking system to monitor agreements; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend made it easier for citizens to pay taxes by establishing an external drop box for receipt of payments after hours, instituting options for payment of tax bills at BB&T branches, and modifying the tax bill format to make it more "user friendly" for taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, due to these and numerous other innovations, Mr. Friend now presides over an Office that uses standard policies and procedures to ensure consistent and accountable processing of County funds; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend accomplished all these changes through the dedicated staff who have become a highly successful and cohesive team under his leadership, and whose work he constantly seeks to highlight; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Mr. Friend began thinking about other critical issues affecting Amherst County citizens beyond the scope of his Office, specifically the questions of hunger and other issues often connected to persons in poverty; and

WHEREAS, by early 2016, Mr. Friend had spearheaded the formation of Neighbors Helping Neighbors to provide nutrition to the hungry of Amherst County, and has in the course of one short year harnessed individual and corporate interests in the County to such an extent that two food kitchens and a food warehouse now are operational in the County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Friend has demonstrated not only the utmost professionalism in the discharge of his duties as Treasurer, but also has shown his concern for his fellow County residents through his work to alleviate hunger and poverty.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

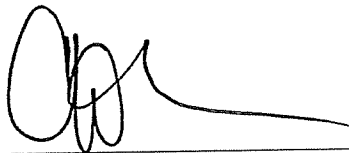
That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia, hereby recognizes Garry L. Friend as a dedicated public servant, and a true friend of Amherst County, and gratefully commends him for the exceptional service and heartfelt commitment he has demonstrated to Amherst County and through it, the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Board wishes Mr. Friend a happy retirement, confident that he will continue to be a force for the betterment of Amherst County, and thanks him in advance for all his good works yet to come.

II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

Adopted this 6th day of June, 2017.



Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk
Amherst County Board of Supervisors