



BOOK 37
Pages 361-370



AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Supervisors

Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
District 5
David W. Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chair
District 4
Tom Martin, Supervisor
District 1
L. J. Ayers III, Supervisor
District 3
Claudia D. Tucker, Supervisor
District 2

MINUTES

March 16, 2021
Administration Building - 153 Washington Street -
Public Meeting Room
Amherst, Virginia 24521
Meeting Convened - 7:00 PM

County Administrator
Dean C. Rodgers

County Attorney
Mark Popovich

I. Call to Order

At a regular meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors held on March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
David W. Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chair
Tom Martin, Supervisor

ABSENT:

L. J. Ayers III, Supervisor
Claudia D. Tucker, Supervisor

STAFF:

Dean C. Rodgers, County Administrator
David R. Proffitt, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Regina M. Rice, Clerk to Boards

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh and Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Martin led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Consent Agenda

By motion of Vice-Chair Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for March 16, 2021.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh and Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

A. Minutes - February 16, 2021 Budget Workshop (5PM) and February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting (7PM)

It was moved that the Board adopt the Minutes for February 16, 2021 Budget Workshop and February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting.

B. ACSO Revenue Appropriation

It was moved that the Board approve the appropriation of funds as described.

VI. Special Presentation

A. ACPS FY22 Budget - Dr. Arnold, School Superintendent

Dr. Rob Arnold, Amherst County School Superintendent, presented the ACPS FY22 Budget to the Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Arnold provided a slide presentation of the proposed 2021-22 school operational budget and discussed five changes to the budget that included the following:

- 1) Offering a 4% salary increase to all school staff
- 2) A health insurance premium increase - 6.8% for the employer and 3.8% for the employee
- 3) Two additional expenditures - a HVAC maintenance contract increase and the CTE Regional Academy to offer courses to support students to attend the academy; and
- 4) Stipends for teachers to run after-school programs and STEM programs for Middle and Elementary students

(See Attachment 1)

He reported on an additional \$1.9M to the School Operational Budget which would bring the total Proposed 2021-22 Regular School Operational Budget to \$46,704,308.

Dr. Arnold spoke briefly on health insurance rates and explained a balance funding step process that the school is undertaking to keep the increased cost to employees at 3.8%.

By motion of Chair Moore and with the following vote, the Board adopted the FY22 School Budget as presented.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

A. Support Resolution for United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration Grant

EDA Director Victoria Hanson presented information concerning a project that will bring to Amherst County new jobs and investments. She said the EDA is seeking to build a 45,000 square foot industrial building for multi-tenants on Lot 6 at Amelon Commerce Center. This facility will be move-in ready that will allow industries to be efficient in their work and grow their business.

Ms. Hanson advised the EDA is putting together a grant package to submit to the U.S. Department of Commerce for \$3M to assist the EDA in constructing the building and she said the debt service would be managed by the EDA.

Ms. Hanson asked the Board for its continued support and adoption of the proposed resolution approving the project.

By motion of Vice-Chair Pugh and with the following vote, the Board approved the support resolution as presented.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

B. Health Insurance Renewal

Human Resource Director Linda Warner addressed the Board concerning renewal contracts from Dental Dental and Piedmont Community Health Plan (PCHP). She advised that Delta Dental will remain a flat renewal for FY2020 and no action is needed.

Ms. Warner explained that the Vision Services Plan (VSP) is currently in the third year of a four year contract and no action would be needed by the Board.

Ms. Warner advised that PCPH has proposed a 4.4% increase to employees for medical insurance and is offering the County a rate cap guarantee if the Board contracts with PCHP for FY2023.

Supervisor Martin commented that he has heard concerns from employees about the current insurance and that he may not want to consider extending PCHP for two years.

Chair Moore said there was an "uproar" when the County changed health insurance and at that time the Board decided to revisit this matter after three years and reevaluate it.

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board approved the renewal of the County's dental and medical insurance contracts with Delta Dental and Piedmont Community Health Plan for the FY2022 plan year only and directed staff to execute the appropriate documents.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

IX. County Administrator's Report

A. Budget Update

County Administrator Rodgers provided the Board with a budget update. He said the County is currently receiving information from Richmond regarding additional funding and adjustments have been made as shown on the handout sheet. (See Attachment 2)

Mr. Rodgers said his recommendation to the Board would be to use those funds to increase the 1.5% pay raise for County staff. This increase would be competitive with surrounding localities and other parts of local government where pay raises are ranging from 4%-5%.

Finance Director Stacey Wilkes addressed the Board and explained what it would take to get to a five percent (5%) pay increase.

She advised the County will be receiving American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and explained the four categories how the money can be used that included additional COVID expenses, premiums for employment for essential employees, awarding more grants for small businesses and households, and using funds for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. She advised the ARP money would come directly to the County within 60 days.

Mr. Rodgers estimated the ARP money the County will receive is approximately \$6.1 M. He suggested giving \$1M to ACSA to put towards the water and sewer infrastructure and stopping the annual contribution that the County puts towards that. This would leave the remaining \$5M for broadband expansion.

Supervisor Martin invited the Treasurer to address the position in her office that has been vacant since March 2020.

Treasurer Joanne Carden addressed the Board and explained that due to COVID, public traffic to her office has decreased; however, her office has seen an increase of credit card payments of \$700,000 to a \$1M with transactions on line and by telephone. She said the duties of her staff have increased because all those transactions have to be entered into the AS400. Ms. Carden said that due to COVID, she was not in favor of bringing another person into the office at this time, however, agreed to offer the vacant position to the Board to help fund the pay raise increase. She stated she would come back later to ask the Board to appropriate the money back into her budget to hire a Deputy Treasurer when the position was needed.

The Board discussed several options and concluded with leaving the funding for the Treasurer's position and agreeing to a four percent (4%) raise for County staff, which would match the school's pay raise increase.

By motion of Chair Moore and with the following vote, the Board approved a four percent (4%) pay increase for county staff and authorized committing \$1M of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to be received by the County to ACSA to use for sanitary sewer extensions into previous developed areas where drainfields fail. The annual contribution from the County to the ACSA for this purpose will be suspended for at least the next five (5) years.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE: Ms. Moore and Mr. Martin

NAY: Mr. Pugh

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

Note: It was the Board's consensus to schedule a meeting on March 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. for approval of the County's FY22 budget.

X. County Attorney's Report

County Attorney Mark Popovich addressed the Board regarding the opioid litigation before the Governor.

Mr. Popovich asked the Board if they were comfortable signing a letter to send to Governor Northam adding Amherst County to the list of localities supporting the Opioid Abatement Authority.

Chair Moore, Vice-Chair Pugh and Supervisor Martin voiced their support.

By motion of Chair Moore and with the following vote, the Board agreed that the County Attorney would add the County's name to a letter listing the localities supporting the legislated configuration of the Opioid Abatement Authority that is headed to the Governor for adoption.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

XI. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. Amherst County Museum & Historical Society - Annual Report

Amherst County Museum Director Octavia Starbuck addressed the Board and provided an overview of activities at the Museum for 2020. (See Attachment 3)

B. Agriculture Committee - Ms. Claudia Tucker

Due to Mrs. Tucker's absence, no report was given.

C. Amherst County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Development Board - Mr. Tom Martin

Supervisor Martin reported the Recreation Board met last week with Recreation Director Patrick Nalley and Public Works Director Brian Thacker to discuss programs prior before COVID.

D. Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, Board of Directors, February 25, 2021

For information only.

XII. Departmental Reports

A. Nominations to the Redistricting Committee

County Administrator Rodgers reminded the Board to submit nominees to participate on the Redistricting Committee. He advised the Board he would like to have the Committee formed and seated and Board's recommendation by August 1.

Mr. Rodgers provided the Board an informational sheet to provide to those citizens who may be interested in sitting on this committee. (See Attachment 4)

XIII. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XIV. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Martin said there was another accident at the intersection of Rt. 151 and Rt. 29 last Friday and asked the County Administrator to again reach out to VDOT concerning this area.

Vice-Chair Pugh had no matter to discuss.

Chair Moore reported of numerous potholes and needed repairs on Rocky Hill Road in Madison Heights. She asked the County Administrator to reach out to VDOT concerning this problem.

XV. Closed Session

- A. A closed session, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, on property not yet determined.

Supervisor Martin moved that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors convene in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, on property not yet determined.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh and Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

Supervisor Martin motioned to come out of closed session and was approved with the following vote:

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh and Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker

XVI. Certification of Closed Session

To certify the closed session:

Supervisor Martin motioned that the Amherst County Board of Supervisors certified by a recorded vote that, to the best of each Board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session.

Mrs. Moore	AYE
Mr. Pugh	AYE
Mr. Martin	AYE
Mr. Ayers	ABSENT
Mrs. Tucker	ABSENT

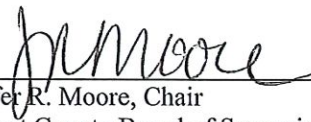
XVII Adjournment

By motion of Supervisor Martin and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 8:36 p.m.


AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Pugh and Mr. Martin

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Ayers and Mrs. Tucker



Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk

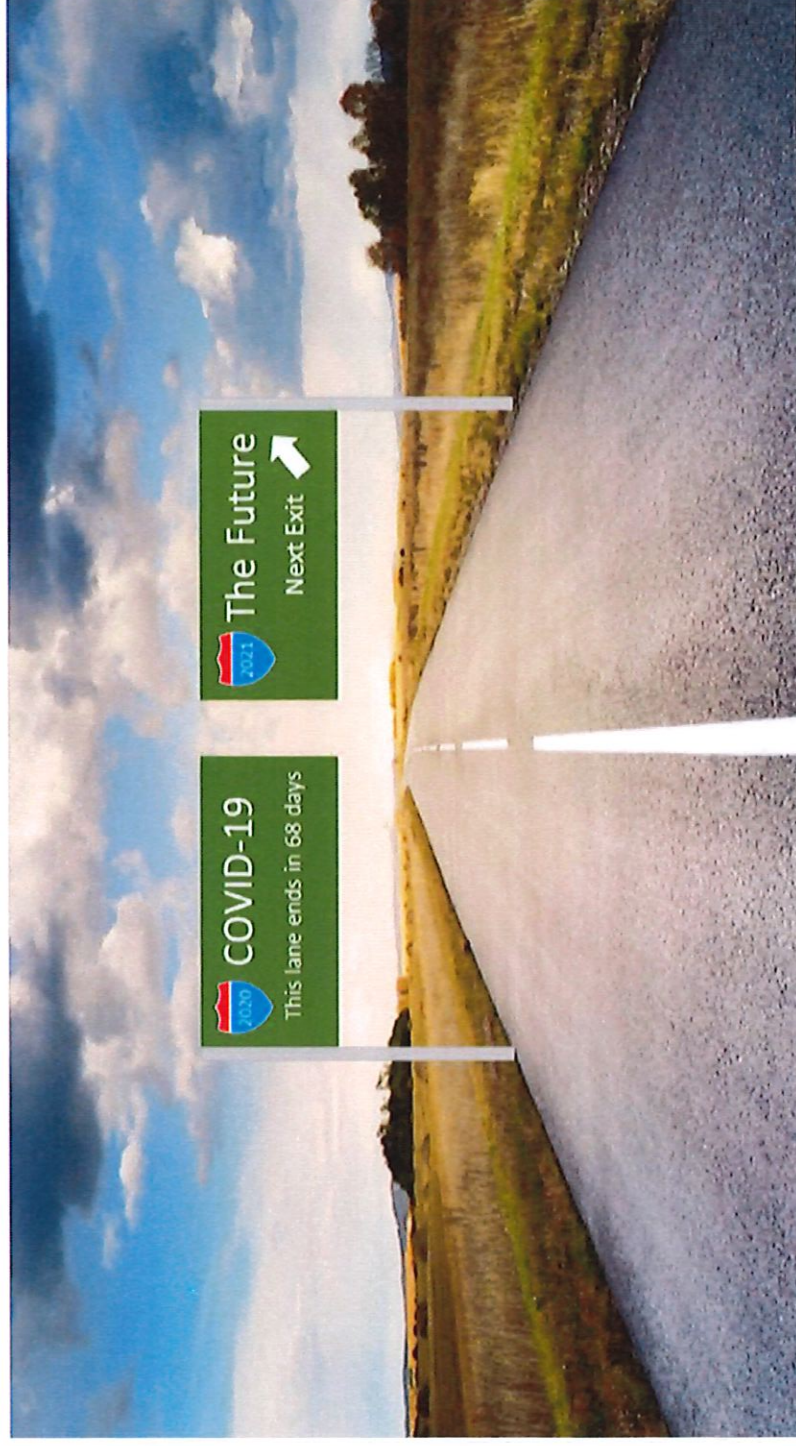
Attachment 1



PROPOSED 2021-22 SCHOOL OPERATIONAL BUDGET

MARCH 16, 2021

DR. ROBERT ARNOLD, SUPERINTENDENT



On the Road Again



Vision & Mission Statements

▣ Our Vision

- The Amherst County Public Schools will cultivate excellence in Every Child, Every Day.

▣ Our Mission

- The Amherst County Public Schools will create a culture that inspires excellence in academics, career readiness and citizenship in every child.



We believe that our successes should be measured on whether or not we are preparing our students to be life-ready. A life-ready student will be able to communicate, collaborate, think critically, creatively and be an impactful citizen.

The development and focus of the Proposed 2021-22 School Operational Budget is “Building Life Ready Students”.



The following are changes to the
Proposed 2021-22 School Operational Budget.

- ▣ Salary Increases for all Employees
 - ▣ 4% Percent Salaries & Benefits
- ▣ Health Insurance Premium
 - ▣ Increased Premiums for Employees and Employer
- ▣ Southern Air
 - HVAC Maintenance Contract
- ▣ CTE Regional Academy
- ▣
- ▣ STIPENDS for STEM Programs at Middle & Elementary Level



Summary of Expenditures School Operational Budget

2020-21 Budget \$44,799,916

Additions \$ 1,905,392

Total Proposed 2021-22 Regular
School Operational Budget \$46,704,308



Summary of Expenditures

2020-21 Regular School Operational Budget	\$46,705,308
Child Nutrition Budget	\$ 2,355,910
Federal Programs	\$ 2,430,197
Adult Basic Education	\$ 653,740
CARES Funds	\$ 2,272,224
Total Proposed 2021-22 School Operational Budget	\$54,417,379



Additional Funding Received for 2021-22

State Revenue	\$ 2,014,020
State Sales Tax	\$ (108,828)
Other Local Funds	\$ 0.00
Board of Supervisors	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

Total Additional Revenue for Regular School Operational Budget

	\$ 1,905,392
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Child Nutrition
Federal Grants
ABE Grants
CARES Funds

	\$ 19,534
	\$ 0.00
	\$ 0.00
	<u>\$ 2,272,224</u>

Total Increase to Revenue for the 2021-22 School Operational Budget

	\$ 4,197,150
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Summary of Revenue	
State Revenue	\$ 27,099,397
State Sales Tax	\$ 5,184,395
Other Local Funds	\$ 519,427
Board of Supervisors	<u>\$13,902,089</u>
Sub-Total Revenue for the 2021-22	
Regular School Operational Budget	\$46,705,308
Child Nutrition	\$ 2,355,910
Federal Grants	\$ 2,430,197
ABE Grants	\$ 653,740
CARES Funds	\$ 2,272,224
Total Revenue for the 2021-22 School	
Operational Budget	\$54,417,379
Total Expenditures	\$54,417,379

The Proposed 2020-21 School Operational Budget presented is a balanced budget.



Amherst County Public Schools

AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS															
2021-2022															
School	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SpEd	Total
Amherst County High School										335	321	311	265		1232
Amherst Middle School							111	125	142						378
Monelison Middle School							196	176	209						581
Amelon Elementary School	64	70	49	68	65	69									385
Amherst Elementary School	43	36	45	42	37	39									242
Central Elementary School	58	55	50	45	58	49									315
Elon Elementary School	68	70	61	59	55	53									366
Madison Heights Elementary School	53	58	58	58	69	50									346
Temperance Elementary School	14	19	13	23	14	19									102
Totals	300	308	276	295	298	279	307	301	351	335	321	311	265	0	3947

Proposed Budget is based on ADM of 3934.65
Governor's Proposed Budget is based on ADM of 3934.65

Attachment 2

		Constitutionals	Remaining County Staff	Total	
Funds needed for 5%		215,679.80	354,340.30	570,020.10	
Social Service Local Share of 5%		15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	
<u>Funding Sources</u>					
Comp Board funding		(135,000.00)	0.00	(135,000.00)	
Already budgeted		(95,679.80)	(76,320.20)	(172,000.00)	
		0.00	278,020.10	278,020.10	
<u>Original Proposed Cuts Still Available</u>					
Election Officials			(5,000.00)		
Code Enforcement			(5,000.00)		
Park Maintenance			(5,000.00)		
Remaining ACSA funding(replace with ARP funds)			(151,893.00)		
Remaining Solid Waste proposed cut			(27,503.00)		
			83,624.10		
<u>Reductions from State</u>					
Decrease in Health Department Payment			(21,000.00)		
Decrease in Health Insurance estimated increase			(11,000.00)		
			51,624.10		
<u>Other Suggested Cuts</u>					
Vacant Treasurer position			(38,800.00)		
Volunteer Incentives (has consistently been less than 23K last three years)			(4,000.00)		
LODA Rate increasing less than 1%			(10,000.00)		
			(1,175.90)		

Attachment 3

COMMENTS:

The Amherst County Museum and Historical Society was founded in 1976, with the mission to discover, collect and preserve objects related to the history and genealogy of Amherst County and to exhibit, interpret and offer those collections to the public to provide educational experiences for people of all ages. In other words, we are the keepers of Amherst County's historical and genealogical records and artifacts.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone due to Covid-19 and the Museum was no exception. We closed from March 15, 2020, reopening June 30, 2020 once the Director had protocols in place. Despite the difficulties we were able to continue to serve the community, although on a smaller scale than usual. Our exhibits remain open to the public on an appointment only basis, we were able to have our Ghost Walk, staying within social distancing guidelines, and we even managed to have a couple programs with limited attendance. Two new exhibitions were installed as well.

Although our research library remains closed to the public, we have been kept busy doing free research for those who reached out to us. We recently did research for the PBS genealogy television series *Finding Your Roots* (to be premiered in 2022 with Season 8).

We have also been able to keep the public interest through postings on our Facebook page and have had some lively discussion in our Facebook group. Two of the programs – *Moonshine and Amherst Women Voting* -- were recorded and put on the Museum's YouTube channel. Additional past programs will be recorded and put on YouTube. We are in conversation with Mike Cargill, Digital Media Communications Manager, and the Teck Club to record a program on the Layout and Symbols of Cemeteries and Cleaning Tombstones (with part of the program being shot in a cemetery) and a program on the Frank Cash Glass Negatives, both to be aired on YouTube. In addition we will have Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson engage with Amherst County Students virtually.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, our fundraising events were limited to the Ghost Walk, an end of the Year appeal letter to the membership, and the sale of the 2020 Frank Cash photographs calendar. We received a \$500.00

2020-2021 Fiscal Year

Date	Monthly Visitors - Galleries	Monthly Researchers	Program	Attendance
July	16	LIBRARY CLOSED 2	No Program	
August	17	LIBRARY CLOSED 2		
8/30/2020			Moonshine Stills	41
8/30/2020		Hunting Moonshine Exhibit Opened		
September	38	LIBRARY CLOSED 6		
9/1/2020		Amherst County Women Making a Difference Exhibit Opened		
9/13/2020		partnership with AGAR	Women Voting	41
October	18	LIBRARY CLOSED 6		
		YouTube	Moonshine Stills	
		YouTube	Women Voting	
10/24/2020		15 Volunteers	Ghost Walk	52
November	13	LIBRARY CLOSED 3		
11/9/2020		CANCELLED	Evening on Hill	
December	22	LIBRARY CLOSED		
12/13/2020		CANCELLED	Open House	
12/13/2020		CANCELLED	Tours	
January	4	LIBRARY CLOSED	Thomas Jefferso	Cancelled
February	4	LIBRARY CLOSED	No Program	
March		LIBRARY CLOSED	No Program	
April		YouTube	No Program	
May		YouTube	No Program	
June		YouTube	No Program	
	132	19		134
	Figures does not include Walk-ins on business, program information or general information			

Attachment 4

Redistricting Committee Applicants:

At their March 2, 2021 meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing a Redistricting Committee. According to The Virginia Constitution, local governments that elect their governing body members from districts are required to redistrict every ten years in response to the census. The committee will evaluate the data from the 2020 census, apply the legal requirements for redistricting to determine if any district boundaries must be adjusted, and make a formal recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

The members of the Redistricting Committee will consist of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and a second member of the Board, who will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the County Attorney, the County Registrar, the Director of Community Development and the Director of Information Technology, as well as, a citizen representative from each of the five electoral districts as appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Each Board member represents one of the five electoral districts in the County. A citizen representative will be nominated by a Board member. Once nominated, the nominee will be voted on by the Board of Supervisors at one of their regular meetings to be considered for the Redistricting Committee.

Citizens that are appointed to the committee will review data that is provided from the 2020 census to be sure that local electoral districts are proportional in population. The Committee will use census data, maps, population trends and other applicable information that will be provided to them to make decisions. County staff will also be supporting the Committee administratively. Generally, citizens can expect to meet a couple times a month and/or when a meeting is called together by the Chair of the Committee. The Committee will disband once the task of reviewing and making a recommendation has been completed. Their work is expected to be finished by the 1st of August but that may have to be extended if the federal Bureau of the Census continues to delay in releasing its data.

If you are interested in serving, please contact your Board of Supervisors representative. Supervisor's contact information can be found on the County website:

<https://www.countyofamherst.com/supervisors/>