



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

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The Board of Supervisors Passes Cigarette Tax Ordinance

During their October 20, 2020 meeting, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing and passed a Cigarette Tax Ordinance, setting the new Cigarette sales tax at 27 cents per pack. The ordinance will go into effect July 1, 2021. It is anticipated that this tax will raise approximately \$1 million in annual, recurring revenue.

The ordinance is in response to legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly during their 2020 session which allows counties to tax cigarettes as cities have been allowed to. The Board received opposition comments and letters from multiple members of the community, as well as the National Association of Tabaco Outlets and the Virginia Wholesaler and Distributors Association, during the process. Amherst is the first county in the area to pass a cigarette tax.

A draft of the Cigarette Tax Ordinance can be found in the Board of Supervisors October 20, 2020 agenda:
<https://amherstcova.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1712&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>