



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

November 25, 2019

Proposed Business Tax Changes

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors, Amherst County is considering changes to the tax code. These changes are an effort to begin reducing the county's heavy reliance on real estate taxes. The proposed rates are expected to prevent some businesses from avoiding taxation and to allow all businesses to take tax advantage of depreciation of their assets. The Supervisors wanted particularly to address the movement of inventory out of the county to avoid Merchant's Capital tax, put a more realistic depreciation rate in place for Business Equipment tax and include the gross receipts of all retail and wholesale businesses without overburdening small businesses that have high gross receipts but low margins. Staff was directed to calculate rates that would be revenue neutral to county receipts.

The proposed changes were put before the Board of Supervisors at their November 19th meeting and will be reviewed and discussed over the course of several months. The adjustments suggested are intended to make taxes more equitable across all business types. This means that some businesses will be paying more or a different type of tax than before. The proposed rates are generally equal to or below those of Campbell County.

Public input will be solicited in the coming months. The Commissioner of the Revenue will be conducting a survey to better understand how the proposed tax changes will impact business owners. A town meeting will be scheduled in 2020 giving citizens and businesses owners the opportunity to discuss the changes. Any changes made will not go into effect until 2021.

The proposed changes can be viewed in the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda for November, 19th. This document can be found on the county website:

<https://amherstcova.civicclerk.com/Web/UserControls/DocPreview.aspx?p=1&aoid=1190>.

Citizens are encouraged to engage with the Board of Supervisors in the coming months and share their questions and comments.

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.