



**AMHERST COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Board of Supervisors

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

MINUTES

February 21, 2023
Administration Building - 153 Washington
Street - Public Meeting Room
Amherst, Virginia 24521
Meeting Convened - 7:00 PM

County Administrator
Jeremy Bryant, Interim

County Attorney
Mark Popovich

I. Call to Order

At a regular meeting of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors held on February 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., the following members were present:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Tom Martin, Chairman
L. J. Ayers III, Vice-Chair
Claudia D. Tucker, Supervisor
Drew Wade, Supervisor
David W. Pugh, Jr., Supervisor

ABSENT: None

STAFF:

Jeremy S. Bryant, Interim County Administrator
David R. Proffitt, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Kristen Freeman, Clerk

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

NOTE: All Board of Supervisors' meetings are now being streamed live on Facebook and on YouTube.

II. Approval of Agenda

By motion of Vice-Chair Ayers and with the following vote, the Board approved the agenda for February 21, 2023.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Ayers, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Wade and Mr. Pugh
NAY: None
ABSENT: None

III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Pugh and Supervisor Tucker led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Public Hearing

A. Special Exception 2022-603 Timothy & Sherry Carton

Tyler Creasy, Assistant Zoning Administrator/Planner, presented Special Exception 2022-603 to the Board. The location for the request is 243 Christians Springs Rd., and is further identified as Tax Map No. 81-3-8. The short-term tourist rental of a dwelling that is within 500' of another dwelling is a special exception in the A-1, Agricultural Residential district. Therefore, this public hearing is required for the proposed use of the short-term tourist rental of a dwelling to be approved.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Proponents: Sherry Carton, Robert Smith

Opponents: None

The Public Hearing was closed.

By motion of Vice-Chair Ayers and with the following vote, the Board approved Special Exception 2022-603 with the Planning Commission's recommended conditions.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Ayers, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Wade and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

B. Ordinance 2023-2 - Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance

County Attorney Mark Popovich presented the Board with Ordinance 2023-2. With the growth of accommodation intermediaries being used to make reservations for hotels, motels, inns, short-term rentals and other types of accommodation, the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia has been looking for ways to enhance local transient occupancy tax ordinances in order to make sure the payment of such tax is being done appropriately and that necessary information is being provided by such intermediaries. The proposed changes to the County's transient occupancy tax ordinance is based upon the Association's efforts to develop a uniform type of ordinance for all localities to use and benefit from.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Proponents: None

Opponents: None

The Public Hearing was closed.

By motion of Supervisor Tucker and with the following vote, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2023-2 as presented.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Ayers, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Wade and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

VI. Consent Agenda

By motion of Supervisor Wade and with the following vote, the Board approved the Consent Agenda for February 21, 2023.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Ayers, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Wade and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

A. Minutes - February 7, 2023

It was moved that the Board adopt the minutes of February 7, 2023.

B. Appropriation of Revenue - Social Services

It was moved that the Board appropriated State/Federal funding received into the FY23 budget as described.

C. Resolution 2023-6-R Opioid Settlement

It was moved that the Board adopt Resolution 2023-6-R as presented.

D. Appropriation of Revenue - Sheriff's Office

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

VII. Special Presentation

A. Firefly Update - Gary Wood

Gary Wood and Melissa Gay presented the Board with information on the status of Firefly Fiber Broadband Internet in Amherst County (**SEE ATTACHMENT 1**)

VIII. New Business

A. Resolution 2023-3-R, Sara Lu Christian Trail Dedication

By motion of Chair Martin and with the following vote, the Board adopted Resolution 2023-3-R as presented.

AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Ayers, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Wade and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

IX. County Administrator's Report

Interim County Administrator Bryant had nothing to report.

X. County Attorney's Report

The County Attorney mentioned that a number of opioid defendant firms have agreed to global settlements that are an estimated 18.7 billion dollar payout to localities and states throughout the United States. Mr. Popovich stated that if these settlements are reached in accordance with the terms contained therein and with certain incentives included therein the Virginia share is anticipated to be somewhere around 425 million dollars. The actual amount that will come to each locality is not yet known because we have to wait for those incentive numbers to come in.

XI. Liaison and Committee Reports

A. School Board - Claudia Tucker

Supervisor Tucker reported that budget meetings are taking most of the School Boards time and they are still talking about some things operationally in the schools.

B. Planning Commission - David Pugh

Supervisor Pugh said he had nothing to report as there was no quorum at the last meeting and they will wait until next month to meet and see what that holds.

C. Agriculture Committee - Claudia Tucker

Supervisor Tucker stated that a biologist from the Department of Wildlife Resources, DWR, will be presenting to the Agriculture Board about coyotes and control.

XII. Citizen Comment

There was no public comment.

XIII. Matters from Members of the Board of Supervisors

Chair Martin stated that he was impressed and appreciative of the County staff. He stated they have been working very hard, and it shows, and he appreciates them all.

Vice-Chair Ayers had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Tucker mentioned that the house behind Amherst Presbyterian Church and adjoining the Sheriff's Department parking lot has a resident living there and that the will stated that when the owner died, the property would revert to the county. The owner, unfortunately, passed away in January. The resident that was staying there is still staying there and would like to continue to stay until the summertime when she will be moving. Supervisor Tucker stated the property is a very nice piece of property, and the house is beyond repair and would need to be torn down. She stated the county would need to think about some things they may want to do with the property and she stated that one thing that she has been approached about is turning it into a small park.

Supervisor Wade had no matter to discuss.

Supervisor Pugh had no matter to discuss.

XIV. Adjournment

By motion of Vice-Chair Ayers and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 7:33 pm.

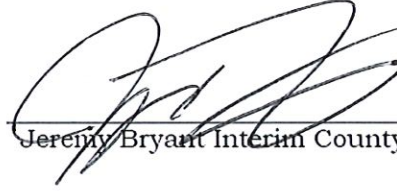
AYE: Mr. Martin, Mr. Ayers, Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Wade and Mr. Pugh

NAY: None

ABSENT: None



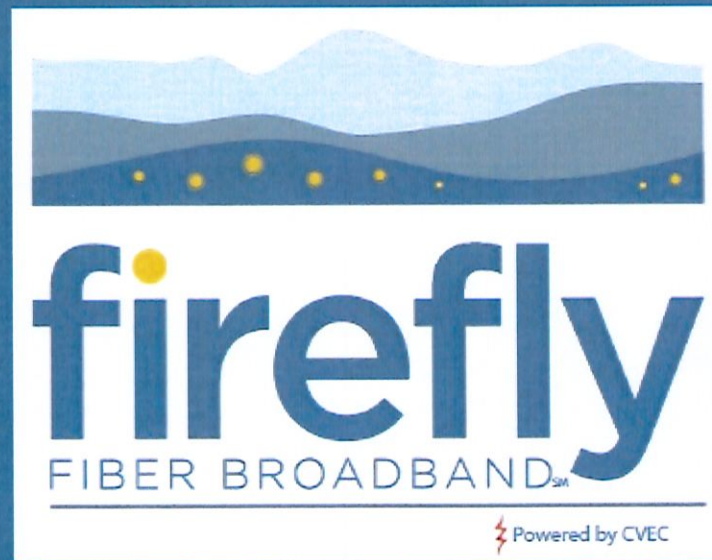
Tom Martin, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors



Jeremy Bryant Interim County Administrator

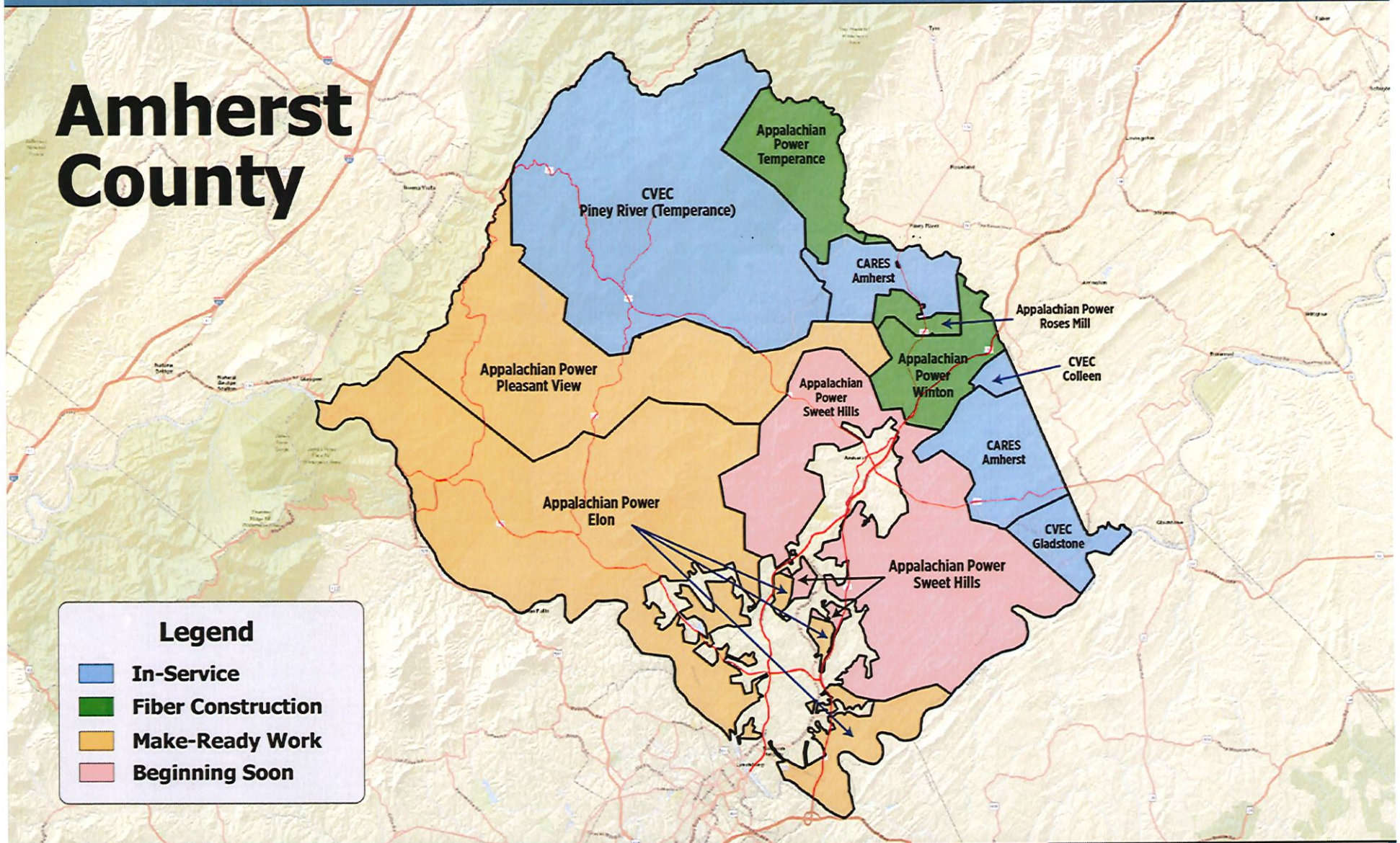
Firefly Fiber Broadband

Closing the Rural Digital Divide



Permanent Solutions
Future Proof Technology

Amherst County



Legend

- In-Service
- Fiber Construction
- Make-Ready Work
- Beginning Soon



Presently Active

- 1450 homes
 - Connected/Registered- 900 homes

Next Set of Service Zones to Activate

- 1,200 homes
 - Anticipated Preregistrations- 720 homes
 - In various states of fiber and make ready construction

Next Service Zones to Begin Make Ready Construction

- 4,350 homes
 - Anticipated Preregistrations- 1,740 homes



- \$15.1 Million already invested in Amherst to date
- Total passings within RISE, CVEC fiber and CARES - 7,000
- CVEC electric accounts - 1,020
- Total Miles of Fiber - 530

- Total RISE Project Investment in Amherst - \$30,000,000
- Total CVEC and CARES investment - \$14,000,000

