

# Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

## Rules of Procedure

Adopted March 20, 2019

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# Rules of Procedure of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

## 1. Purpose

- A. General.** The purpose of these Rules of Procedure (the "Rules") is to facilitate the timely, efficient, and orderly conduct of public meetings and decision-making, and they are designed and adopted for the benefit and convenience of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors (the "Board").
- B. Rules Do Not Create Substantive Rights in Others.** The Rules do not create substantive rights in third parties or participants in matters before the Board.
- C. Compliance with These Rules.** The Rules that are parliamentary in nature are procedural, and not jurisdictional, and the failure of the Board to strictly comply with them does not invalidate any action of the Board. The Rules that implement the requirements of State law are jurisdictional only to the extent that Virginia law makes them so.

## 2. Supervisors

- A. Equal Status.** Except for the additional responsibilities of the Chair provided in Rule 3(A), all Supervisors have equal rights, responsibilities, and authority.
- B. Decorum.** Each Supervisor will act in a collegial manner and will cooperate and assist in preserving the decorum and order of the meetings.

## 3. Officers and Their Terms of Office

- A. Chair.** When present, the Chair shall preside at all Board meetings during the year for which elected. The Chair shall have a vote but no veto. (Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1422 and 15.2-1423) The Chair shall also be the head official for all of the Board's official functions and for ceremonial purposes.
- B. Vice-Chair.** If the Chair is absent from a Board meeting, the Vice-Chair, if present, shall preside at the meeting. The Vice-Chair shall also discharge the duties of the Chair during the Chair's absence or disability. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1422)
- C. Acting Chair in Absence of Chair and Vice-Chair.** If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent from any meeting, a present Supervisor shall be chosen to act as Chair.
- D. Term of Office.** The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected for one-year terms, but either or both may be re-elected for one or more additional terms. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1422)
- E. References to the Chair.** All references in these Rules to the Chair include the Vice-Chair or any other Supervisor when the Vice-Chair or the other Supervisors is acting as the Chair.

## 4. Meetings

- A. Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting is the first meeting in January held after the newly elected Supervisors qualify for the office by taking the oath and meeting any other requirements of State law, and the first meeting held in January of each succeeding year. At the Annual Meeting, the Board shall:

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1. **Elect Officers.** Elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

2. **Designate Clerks.** Designate a Clerk and one or more Deputy Clerks who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, who shall have the duties stated in Virginia Code § 15.2-1539 and any additional duties set forth in resolutions of the Board as adopted from time to time. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416)

3. **Establish Schedule for Regular Meetings.** Establish the days, times, and places for regular meetings of the Board for that year. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416)

4. **Adopt Rules and Policies.** Adopt Rules of Procedure and Policies that will apply in the calendar year, subject to amendment under Rule 12.

B. **Regular Meetings.** Regular Meetings are those meetings established at the Annual Meeting to occur on specified days and at specified times and places.

1. **Regular Meeting Falling on a Holiday.** If any day established as a Regular Meeting day falls on a legal holiday, the meeting scheduled for that day shall be held on the next regular business day without action of any kind by the Board. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416)

2. **Adjourning a Regular Meeting.** Without further public notice, the Board may adjourn a Regular Meeting from day to day, from time to time, or from place to place, but not beyond the time fixed for the next Regular Meeting, until the business of the Board is complete. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416) If a quorum was not established or was lost during the meeting, the Supervisors present may only adjourn the meeting (See also Rules 7(B), (C), and (D)).

3. **Continuing a Regular Meeting When Weather or Other Conditions Create a Hazard.** If the Chair finds and declares that weather or other conditions are hazardous for Supervisors to attend a Regular Meeting, the meeting shall be continued to the next Regular Meeting date. The Chair's finding, and the continuation of the meeting, shall be communicated by the Chair or the Clerk of the Board (the "Clerk") to the other Supervisors and to the general news media as promptly as possible. All hearings and other matters previously advertised shall be conducted at the continued meeting and no further advertisement shall be required. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416)

4. **Establishing a Different Day, Time, and Place of a Regular Meeting.** After the Annual Meeting, the Board may establish different days, times, and places for Regular Meetings by adopting a resolution to that effect. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416)

C. **Special Meetings.** A Special Meeting is a meeting that is not a Regular Meeting. The Board may hold Special Meetings as it deems necessary at times and places that it deems convenient. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1417)

1. **Calling and Requesting a Special Meeting.** A Special Meeting shall be held when called by the Chair or requested by two or more Supervisors. The call or request shall be made to the Clerk and shall specify the matters to be considered at the meeting. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1418)

2. **Duty of Clerk to Provide Notice; When Notice May Be Waived.** Upon receipt of a call or request, the Clerk, after consultation with the Chair, shall immediately notify each Supervisor, the County Executive, and the County Attorney about the Special Meeting. The notice shall be in writing and be delivered to each Supervisor, the County Executive, and

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the County Attorney at their place of residence or business. Any Supervisors may request that the notice be delivered to him or her by email or facsimile in lieu of personal delivery. The notice may be waived if all Supervisors are present at the Special Meeting or if all Supervisors sign a waiver for the notice. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1418) The Clerk shall also notify the general news media about the Special Meeting.

3. **Contents of the Notice Provided by the Clerk.** The notice provided by the Clerk shall state the date, time, and place of the meeting and shall specify the matters to be considered.

4. **Matters That May Be Considered.** Only those matters specified in the notice shall be considered at a **Special Meeting** unless all Supervisors are present. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1418)

5. **Adjourning a Special Meeting.** A **Special Meeting** may be adjourned from time to time as the Board finds necessary and convenient to complete the business of those matters identified in the notice of the Special Meeting. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1417) If a quorum was not established or was lost during the meeting, the Supervisors present may only adjourn the meeting (See also Rules 7(B), (C), and (D)).

## 5. **Order of Business for Regular Meetings**

A. **Establishing the Agenda.** The Clerk shall establish the agenda for all Regular Meetings in consultation with the County Executive and the Chair. The County Executive and the Clerk shall review the agenda with the Chair and the Vice Chair prior to the meeting. The Clerk shall set the order of business as provided in Rule 5(B), provided that the Clerk may modify the order of business to facilitate the business of the Board. The draft agenda shall be provided to the Board six days prior to the Regular Meeting date.

1. **Resolutions Proposed by Supervisors.** Resolutions may be proposed by a Supervisor requesting the Board to take a position on an issue of importance to the Board. A Supervisor requesting the Board to adopt a resolution should give notice of the intent to request action on the resolution on a specified meeting date and submit a draft of the proposed resolution. The request shall be made at least seven days before the meeting at which the resolution may be considered. The Clerk will distribute the draft resolution with background information, if available, to all Supervisors. Any Supervisor may submit proposed changes to the proposed resolution to the Clerk in a redline format. The Clerk shall forward all comments received from any Supervisor to the Board. The Supervisor requesting the resolution will then coordinate with the Clerk to prepare a resolution for consideration by the Board. The Clerk shall poll the Supervisors to determine if a majority of the Supervisors supports adding the resolution to the agenda for consideration. If a majority of the Supervisors indicates support for considering the resolution, the resolution will be added to the proposed final agenda. If all Supervisors indicate support for the resolution, the resolution may be placed on the proposed consent agenda unless any Supervisor requests otherwise.

2. **Other Items Proposed To Be Added to the Clerk's Draft Agenda.**

a. **By Supervisors.** Any Supervisor may propose to add items, other than resolutions subject to Rule 5(A)(1), to the Clerk's draft agenda for action if notice of that item has been given in writing or by email to all Supervisors, the Clerk, and the County Executive by 5:00 p.m. two days before the date of the meeting or upon the unanimous consent of all Supervisors present. Any item that has been timely proposed and

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properly noticed shall be added to the end of the agenda for discussion or action unless a majority of the Supervisors present agrees to consider the item earlier on the agenda.

b. By the County Executive. The County Executive may add items to the Clerk's draft agenda for action by 5:00 p.m. two days before the date of the meeting if the item requires consideration and action by the Board at its next meeting. In an emergency, the County Executive may add an item at any time with the consent of the Chair and the Vice Chair. When the County Executive adds an item to the agenda, he shall provide information about the item to all Supervisors as soon as practicable and prior to the meeting.

3. Proclamations and Recognitions Proposed by Citizens. A request by a citizen to place a proclamation or recognition on the agenda must be made at least four weeks in advance of the Board meeting date. The citizen shall submit the request to advance a proclamation or recognition to the Clerk. If the request is made to a Supervisor, the person making the request will be directed to make the request to the Clerk. The Clerk will advise the person making the request of the process and submittal requirements. Upon submittal of the request, the Clerk will review the submittal for completeness and forward it to the Supervisors for review. The Clerk shall poll Supervisors to determine whether a majority of the Supervisors supports adding the proclamation or recognition to the agenda. The Clerk will advise the person requesting the proclamation or recognition whether the proclamation or recognition will be considered by the Board.

4. Public Hearings for Zoning Map Amendments; Prerequisites. Public hearings for zoning map amendments are subject to the following rules in order for the item to be placed on the agenda and heard by the Board:

a. Public Hearing Should Not Be Advertised Until Final Documents Are Received.

The Board's preference is that a public hearing for a zoning map amendment should not be advertised until all of the final documents for a zoning application have been received by the County and are available for public review. To satisfy this preference, applicants should provide final plans, final codes of development, final proffers, and any other documents deemed necessary by the Director of Community Development, to the County no later than two business days prior to the County's deadline for submitting the public hearing advertisement to the newspaper. Staff will advise applicants of this date by including it in annual schedules for applications and by providing each applicant a minimum of two weeks' advance notice of the deadline.

b. Effect of Failure to Timely Receive Final Documents. If the County does not timely receive the required final documents, the public hearing shall not be advertised and the matter shall not be placed on the agenda. If the matter is not advertised, a new public hearing date will be scheduled.

c. Receipt of Final Signed Proffers. Final signed proffers shall be submitted to the County no later than nine calendar days prior to the date of the advertised public hearing. This policy is not intended to prevent changes from being made to proffers resulting from comments received from the public or from Supervisors at the public hearing.

5. Public Hearings; Zoning Map Amendments; Deferral at Applicant's Request. Zoning map amendments advertised for public hearing shall be on the agenda for public hearing on the advertised date, provided that an applicant may request a deferral as provided in County Code § 18-33.52 *et seq.*

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**B. Order of Business at Regular Meetings.** At Regular Meetings of the Board, the order of business shall generally be as follows:

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Moment of Silence.
4. Adoption of the Final Agenda.
5. Brief Announcements by Supervisors.
6. Proclamations and Recognitions.
7. From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda.
8. Consent Agenda.
9. General Business.
10. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.
11. From the County Executive: Report on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.
12. Adjourn.

**C. Closed Meetings.** A Closed Meeting may be held at any point on the agenda, as necessary. Generally, a Closed Meeting will be scheduled either at the midpoint of the agenda or at the end of the agenda prior to adjournment. The Clerk shall promptly post and make available for public inspection the motion to convene a Closed Meeting after it is distributed by the County Attorney; provided that: (i) the contents of the motion may be subject to change without further posting or availability; and (ii) the failure of the Clerk to comply with this subsection does not affect the legality of the Closed Meeting.

## 6. Rules Applicable to the Items of Business on the Agenda

**A. Adoption of the Final Agenda.** *Adoption of the Final Agenda* is the first order of business for a Regular Meeting of the Board. The Board may modify the order of business as part of its adoption of the Final Agenda. Any changes to the Consent Agenda should be made when the Final Agenda is adopted. The Final Agenda must be adopted by a majority vote of the Supervisors present and voting. No item for action not included on the Final Agenda shall be considered at that meeting.

**B. Brief Announcements by Supervisors.** *Brief Announcements by Supervisors* are announcements of special events or other items of interest that are not considered committee reports and are not otherwise on the meeting agenda.

**C. Proclamations and Recognitions.** *Proclamations* are ceremonial documents or recognitions adopted by the Board to draw public awareness to a day, week, or month to recognize events, arts and cultural celebrations, or special occasions. *Recognitions* are ceremonial acknowledgements by the Board of a person for service or achievement.

**D. From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda.** *From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda* allows any member of the public to speak on any topic of public interest that is not on the Final Agenda for a public hearing at that meeting. The following rules apply:

1. **Time.** Each speaker may speak for up to three minutes, provided that if the anticipated number of speakers may exceed 10, or for other reasons related to the Board efficiently conducting its business, the Chair may reduce the amount of time allowed for each speaker to speak to two minutes.
2. **Place.** Each speaker shall speak from the podium.

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a. First Request Received Prior to Noon on the Wednesday of the Week Before the Public Hearing; Approval by Clerk: Matter Removed from Agenda. If an applicant submits its first signed written deferral request and it is received by the Clerk no later than noon on the Wednesday of the week prior to the scheduled public hearing, the Clerk will administratively grant the request and remove the matter from the Agenda. The Board will be notified of the deferral in the next Board package and the deferral will be announced at the earliest possible Board meeting to alert the public of the deferral. The staff also will make every effort to alert the public when a deferral is granted. ¶

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3. **Manner.** In order to allow the Board to efficiently and effectively conduct its business, each speaker shall comply with Rules 6(D)(1) and 6(D)(2), shall address the Board and not the audience, and shall not engage in speech or other behavior that actually disrupts the meeting. The speaker may include a visual or audio presentation.

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E. **Consent Agenda.** The *Consent Agenda* shall be used for **items** that do not require discussion or comment and are anticipated to have the unanimous approval of the Board.

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1. **Questions to Staff.** Supervisors should ask the County Executive or the staff member identified in the executive summary any questions regarding a Consent Agenda item prior to the Board meeting.

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2. **Discussion and Comment.** There shall be no discussion or comment on Consent Agenda items at the Board meeting except as provided in Rule 6(E)(3).

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3. **Removing an Item from the Consent Agenda.** Any Supervisor may remove an item from the Consent Agenda. Any item removed from the Consent Agenda shall be moved to a specific time or to the end of the meeting agenda for further discussion or action. An item requiring only brief comment or discussion may be considered immediately after the approval of the Consent Agenda.

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4. **Effect of Approval of the Consent Agenda.** A motion to approve the Consent Agenda shall approve those Consent Agenda items identified for action and accept Consent Agenda items identified for information.

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F. **General Business.** *General Business* includes public hearings, work sessions, appointments, and other actions, discussions, and presentations.

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1. **Public Hearings.** The Board shall not decide any **item** before the Board requiring a public hearing until the public hearing has been held. The Board may, however, at its discretion, defer or continue the holding of a public hearing or consideration of the **item**. The procedures for receiving a presentation from the applicant and comments from members of the public shall be at the discretion of the Board. However, unless otherwise decided by a majority of the **Supervisors** present during a particular public hearing, the following rules apply:

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a. **Time.** The applicant shall be permitted up to 10 minutes to present its application. Following the applicant's presentation, any member of the public shall be permitted to make one appearance for that public hearing and speak for up to three minutes on the **item**. Following comments by members of the public, the applicant shall be permitted up to five minutes for a rebuttal presentation.

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b. **Place.** The applicant and each member of the public presenting and speaking shall do so from the podium.

c. **Manner.** In order to allow the Board to efficiently and effectively conduct its business, each speaker shall comply with Rules 6(F)(1)(a) and 6(F)(1)(b), shall address the Board, **shall** speak to issues that are relevant to the **item** for which the public hearing is being held, and shall not engage in speech or other behavior that actually disrupts the meeting. The speaker may include a visual or audio presentation.

2. **Public Hearings; Zoning Map Amendments; Applicant's Documents Not Available During Advertisement Period.** If the public hearing is held without the applicant's final

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documents being available for review throughout the advertisement period due to the late submittal of documents, or because substantial revisions or amendments are made to the submitted documents after the public hearing has been advertised, it is the policy of the Board to either defer action and schedule a second public hearing that provides this opportunity to the public or to deny the application. In deciding whether to defer action or to deny the application, the Board shall consider whether deferral or denial would be in the public interest or would forward the purposes of this policy.

**G. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.** *From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda* shall be limited to matters that are not substantial enough to be considered as agenda items to be added to the final agenda. Reports include routine committee reports and information updates by Supervisors. Any matters discussed during this part of the agenda may not be acted upon by the Board at that meeting.

**H. Report from the County Executive.** The *Report from the County Executive* is a report on matters that the County Executive deems should be brought to the Board's attention and provide updates, if necessary, to the monthly County Executive's Report.

## 7. Quorum

**A. Establishing a Quorum.** A majority of all of the members of the Board that is physically assembled is a quorum for any meeting of the Board, except as provided in Rule 7(B)(2). (Virginia Code § 15.2-1415)

**B. Quorum Required to Act; Exceptions.** The Board may take valid actions only if a quorum is present. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1415) There are two exceptions:

- 1. Quorum Not Established; Adjournment.** If a quorum is not established, the only action the Supervisors present may take is to adjourn the meeting.
- 2. Quorum Not Established or Lost Because of a Conflict of Interests; Special Rule.** If a quorum cannot be established or is lost because one or more Supervisors are disqualified from participating in an item because of a conflict of interests under the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (Virginia Code § 2.2-3100 et seq.), the remaining Supervisors are a quorum and they may conduct the business of the Board.

**C. Loss of Quorum During Meeting.** If a quorum was established but during a meeting the quorum is lost, the only action the Supervisors present may take is to adjourn the meeting. If prior to adjournment the quorum is again established, the meeting shall continue. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1415)

**D. Quorum Required to Adjourn Meeting to Future Day and Time.** A majority of the Supervisors present at the time and place established for any regular or special meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of adjourning the meeting from day to day or from time to time, but not beyond the time fixed for the next regular meeting.

## 8. Remote Electronic Participation

The Board will permit a Supervisor to participate in a Board meeting through electronic communication means from a remote location, provided that:

**A. Notification to Clerk of Inability to Attend Because of Personal Matter, Disability, or Medical Condition.** On or before the day of the meeting, the Supervisor shall notify the Chair

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that ~~he or she~~ is unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter or that the ~~Supervisor~~ is unable to attend the meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the ~~Supervisor's~~ physical attendance. The ~~Supervisor~~ must identify with specificity the nature of the ~~personal matter~~.

**B. Quorum Physically Assembled; Approval of Remote Electronic Participation.** A quorum of the Board must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location. The ~~Supervisors~~ present must approve the participation; however, the decision shall be based solely on the criteria in Rule 8(A), without regard to the identity of the ~~Supervisor~~ or ~~items~~ that will be considered or voted on during the meeting.

**C. Duty of Clerk to Record Action.** The Clerk shall record in the Board's minutes the specific nature of the ~~personal matter~~, disability, or medical condition, and the remote location from which the ~~absent Supervisor~~ participated. If the ~~absent Supervisor's~~ remote participation is disapproved because participation would violate this policy, the disapproval shall be recorded in the Board's minutes ~~with specificity~~.

**D. Audibility of Absent Supervisor.** The Clerk shall make arrangements for the voice of the ~~absent Supervisor~~ to be heard by all persons in attendance at the meeting location. If, for any reason, the voice of the ~~absent Supervisor~~ cannot reasonably be heard, the meeting may continue without the participation of the ~~absent Supervisor~~.

**E. Limitation on Remote Electronic Participation in Calendar Year.** Electronic participation by the ~~absent Supervisor~~ as provided in this Rule shall not exceed ~~two~~ Board meetings in each calendar year.

(Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2)

## 9. Conducting the Business of the Board

**A. Enable Efficient and Effective Conduct of Business.** Meetings shall be conducted in a manner that allows the Board to efficiently and effectively conduct its business, without actual disruptions.

**B. Minimizing Disruptions.** To minimize actual disruptions at meetings:

1. **Speakers.** Members of the public who are speaking to the Board shall comply with Rules 6(D) and 6(F)(1), as applicable. Members of the public invited to speak to the Board during any agenda item other than From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda or during a public hearing shall comply with Rule 6(D).
2. **Persons Attending the Meeting.** Any person attending a Board meeting shall comply with the following:
  - a. **Sounds.** Persons may not clap or make sounds in support of or in opposition to any matter during the meeting, except to applaud during the Proclamations and Recognitions portion of the meeting. Instead of making sounds, persons who are not speaking at the podium are encouraged to raise their hands to indicate their support or opposition to any item during the meeting. Cell phones and other electronic devices shall be muted.
  - b. **Other Behavior.** Persons may not act, make sounds, or both, that actually disrupt the Board meeting.

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c. **Signs.** Signs are permitted in the meeting room so long as they are not attached to any stick or pole and do not obstruct the view of persons attending the meeting.

**C. Guidelines Printed on the Final Agenda.** The Guidelines printed on each Final Agenda apply during each Board meeting. The Board may amend the Guidelines from time to time without amending these Rules provided that the Guidelines are consistent with these Rules.

**D. Chair May Maintain Order.** The Chair may ask any person whose behavior is so disruptive as to prevent the orderly conduct of the meeting to cease the conduct. If the conduct continues, the Chair may order the removal of that person from the meeting.

## 10. Motion and Voting Procedures

**A. Action by Motion Followed by a Vote.** Except as provided in Rules 10(B)(2) and 11(D), any action by the Board shall be initiated by a motion properly made by a Supervisor and followed by a vote, as provided below:

- 1. Motion Must Be Seconded; Exception.** Each action by the Board shall be initiated by a motion that is seconded; provided that a second shall not be required if debate immediately follows the motion. Any motion that is neither seconded nor immediately followed by debate shall not be further considered.
- 2. Voting and Recording the Vote.** The vote on any motion shall be by a voice vote. The Clerk shall record the name of each Supervisor voting and how each Supervisor voted on the motion.
- 3. Required Vote, Generally Required Vote for Specific Items.** Each action by the Board shall be made by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Supervisors present and voting on the motion; provided that an affirmative vote of a majority of all elected Supervisors of the Board shall be required to approve an ordinance or resolution:

**a. Appropriations.** Appropriating money exceeding the sum of \$500.

**b. Taxes.** Imposing taxes.

**c. Borrowing.** Authorizing money to be borrowed. (Article VII, § 7, Virginia Constitution; Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1420, 15.2-1427, 15.2-1428)

**4. Tie Vote.** A tie vote shall defeat the motion voted upon. A tie vote on a motion to approve shall be deemed a denial of the item being proposed for approval. A tie vote on a motion to deny shall not be deemed an approval of the item being proposed for denial.

**5. Abstention.** Any Supervisor who will abstain from voting on any motion must state that he or she is abstaining before the vote is taken and state the grounds for abstaining. The abstention will be announced by the Chair and recorded by the Clerk.

**B. When a Motion and a Vote is or is not Required.** An action by the Board is or is not required to be made by a motion followed by a vote as follows:

- 1. Motion and Vote Required.** Any action by the Board to adopt an ordinance or a resolution, and any other action when a motion is required by law or by these Rules, shall be made by a motion followed by a vote.

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2. **Motion and Vote Not Required; Unanimous Consent.** On any item in which the Board is not adopting an ordinance or a resolution, or for which a motion and a recorded vote is not otherwise required by law, the Board may make a decision by unanimous consent. This procedure is appropriate, for example, to provide direction to County staff on an item.

#### C. **Other Motions.**

1. **Motion to Amend.** A *motion to amend* a motion properly pending before the Board may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion to amend shall be discussed and voted on by the Board before any vote is taken on the original motion unless the motion to amend is accepted by both Supervisors making and seconding the original motion. If the motion to amend is approved, the amended motion is then before the Board for its consideration. If the motion to amend is not approved, the original motion is again before the Board for its consideration.

2. **Motion to Call the Question.** The discussion of any motion may be terminated by any Supervisor making a *motion to call the question*. Upon a proper second, the Chair shall call for a vote on the motion to call the question without debate on the motion itself, and the motion shall take precedence over any other item. If the motion is approved, the Chair shall immediately call for a vote on the original motion under consideration.

3. **Motion to Reconsider.** Any decision made by the Board may be reconsidered if a *motion to reconsider* is made at the same meeting or an adjourned meeting held on the same day at which the item was decided. The motion to reconsider may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion may be discussed and voted. The effect of the motion to reconsider, if approved, shall be to place the item for discussion in the exact position it occupied before it was voted upon.

4. **Motion to Rescind.** Any decision made by the Board, except for decisions on zoning map amendments, special use permits, special exceptions, and ordinances, may be rescinded by a majority vote of all elected Supervisors. The *motion to rescind* may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion may be discussed and voted on. The effect of the motion to rescind, if approved, is to nullify the previous decision of the Board. Decisions on zoning map amendments, special use permits, special exceptions, and ordinances may be rescinded or repealed only upon meeting all of the legal requirements necessary for taking action on the items as if it was a new item before the Board for consideration; otherwise, decisions on zoning map amendments, special use permits, special exceptions, and ordinances shall only be eligible for reconsideration as provided in Rule 10(C)(3).

#### 11. **Other Rules: Robert's Rules of Order Procedure in Small Boards**

Procedural rules that are not addressed by these Rules shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Procedure in Small Boards, which provide:

A. **Not Required to Obtain the Floor.** Supervisors are not required to obtain the floor before making motions or speaking, which they can do while seated.

B. **No Limitation on the Number of Times a Supervisor May Speak.** There is no limitation on the number of times a Supervisor may speak to a question, and motions to call the question or to limit debate generally should not be entertained.

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C. **Informal Discussion.** Informal discussion of a subject is permitted while no motion is pending.

D. **Chair; Putting the Question to a Vote.** The Chair need not rise while putting questions to vote.

E. **Chair; Speaking During Discussion.** The Chair may speak in discussion without rising or leaving the chair, and, subject to rule or custom of the Board (which should be uniformly followed regardless of how many Supervisors are present), the Chair usually may make motions and usually votes on all questions.

## 12. Amending the Rules of Procedure

These Rules may be amended only as follows:

A. **Rules Eligible for Amendment.** Any Rule may be amended.

B. **Procedure to Amend.** Any Rule eligible for amendment may be amended only by a majority vote of the Supervisors present and voting at the next Regular Meeting following a regular meeting at which notice of the motion to amend is given. Notice of the motion to amend a Rule may be made by any Supervisor. The motion to amend a Rule may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion shall be discussed and voted on. In deciding whether and how to amend a Rule, the Board shall consider that Rules 3, 4, 6(D), 6(F)(1)(a) through (c), 7, 8, 9(B), 10(A)(3), and 10(B)(1) address statutory or constitutional requirements.

C. **Limitation on the Effect of an Amendment.** The Board's approval of a motion to amend one or more Rules shall not permit the Board to act in violation of a requirement mandated by the Code of Virginia, the Constitution of Virginia, or any other applicable law.

## 13. Suspending the Rules of Procedure

These Rules may be suspended only as follows:

A. **Rules Eligible to be Suspended.** Rules 1, 2, 5, 6, 9(A), 10 (except for Rules 10(A)(3) and 10(B)(1)), 11, and 12 may be suspended.

B. **Procedure to Suspend, Generally.** Any Rule eligible for suspension may be suspended by a majority plus one vote of the Supervisors present and voting. The motion to suspend a Rule may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion may be discussed and voted on. The effect of the motion to suspend a Rule, if approved, is to make that Rule inapplicable to the item before the Board.

C. **Suspending Rules Pertaining to Motions When There is Uncertainty as to Status or Effect.** If one or more motions have been made on an item, and there is uncertainty as to the status or effect of any pending motions or how the Board is to proceed at that point, the Board may, by a majority vote of the Supervisors present and voting, suspend the Rules in Rule 10 for the sole purpose of canceling any pending motions and to permit a new motion to be made. The motion to suspend a Rule pertaining to any pending motions may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion may be discussed and voted on.

D. **Limitation on Effect of Suspended Rules.** The Board's approval of a motion to suspend one or more Rules shall not permit the Board to act in violation of a requirement mandated by the Code of Virginia, the Constitution of Virginia, or any other applicable law.

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