

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

Rules of Procedure for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

**Adopted September 2, 2020
Amended December __, 2020**

Rules of Procedure of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

1. Introduction

- A. **Purpose.** 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.
- D. **Applicability.** These Rules apply to all virtual and hybrid meetings of the Board, as those meetings are defined in these Rules, while a continuity of government ordinance adopted by the Board pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, and pertaining to the COVID-19 disaster, is in effect. Any Board meeting at which the Supervisors and all of the participants are physically assembled is to be conducted pursuant to the Board’s Rules of Procedure adopted January 8, 2020, or as they may be amended.
- E. **Definitions.** The following definitions apply to the administration of these Rules:
 - 1. **Hybrid Meeting.** A “hybrid meeting” is a meeting where persons may either physically attend the meeting or connect to the meeting by electronic communication means.
 - 2. **Present.** A person is “present” at a meeting when physically attending on the date, and at the time and place identified for the meeting, or is connected to the meeting by electronic communication means.
 - 3. **Virtual Meeting.** A “virtual meeting” is a meeting where persons are connected to the meeting by electronic communication means.

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 presides at all Board meetings during the year for which elected. The Chair has a vote but no veto. (Virginia Code §§ 15.2-1422 and 15.2-1423) The Chair also is 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, presides at the meeting. The Vice-Chair also discharges 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 must 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:
 - 1. **Elect Officers.** Elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair.
 - 2. **Designate Clerks.** Designates a Clerk of the Board ("Clerk") and one or more Deputy Clerks who serve at the pleasure of the Board, and who 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.** Establishes the days, times, places (if applicable), and how the public may access and participate in the meeting for regular meetings of the Board for that year. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416) The then-current continuity of government ordinance adopted by the Board pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 governs how the public may access and participate in the meeting if the public is not physically attending.
 - 4. **Adopt Rules and Policies.** Adopts 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, with instructions for how the public may connect to the meeting by electronic communication means.
 - 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 will 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 physically attend a Regular Meeting, prevent one or more Supervisors from being present at a meeting, or prevent a reasonably significant portion of the public from being present at a meeting considering, among other things, the items on the agenda, the meeting must be continued to the next Regular Meeting date. The Chair's finding, and the continuation of the meeting, must be communicated by the Chair or the Clerk to the other Supervisors and to the general news media as promptly as possible. All hearings and other matters previously advertised will be conducted at the continued meeting and no further advertisement is required. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1416)
 4. **Establishing a Different Day, Time, Place, and Instructions.** After the Annual Meeting, the Board may establish for Regular Meetings different days, times, places, and instructions for how the public may connect to the meeting by electronic communication means 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) The then-current continuity of government ordinance adopted by the Board pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1413 governs how the public may connect to the meeting by electronic communication means.
1. **Calling and Requesting a Special Meeting.** A Special Meeting may be called by the Chair or requested by two or more Supervisors. The call or request must 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, must immediately notify each Supervisor, the County Executive, and the County Attorney about the Special Meeting. The notice must be in writing and be delivered to each Supervisor, the County Executive, and the County Attorney at their place of residence or business. Notice will be provided by email to each Supervisor's County email address. 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) An email from the Supervisor to the Clerk waiving notice satisfies this requirement. The Clerk must 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 must state the date, time, place (if applicable) of the meeting, provide instructions for how the public may connect to the meeting by electronic communication means, and specify the matters to be considered.
 4. **Matters That May Be Considered.** Only those matters specified in the notice may 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 must establish the agenda for all Regular Meetings in consultation with the County Executive and the Chair. The County Executive and the Clerk will then review the agenda with the Chair and the Vice Chair before the meeting. The Clerk sets 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 must be provided to the Board at least six days before 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. Initial Notice by Supervisor.** 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.
- b. When Request Must be Made.** The request must be made at least seven days before the meeting at which the resolution may be considered.
- c. Distributing the Draft Resolution to Supervisors for Comments.** 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 must forward all comments received from any Supervisor to the Board.
- d. Preparing the Resolution.** The Supervisor requesting the resolution will then coordinate with the Clerk to prepare a resolution for consideration by the Board.
- e. Adding the Resolution to the Agenda.** The Clerk then polls 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 at the meeting. Any item that has been timely proposed and properly noticed will 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 must provide information about the item to all Supervisors as soon as practicable and prior to the meeting.

3. **Proclamations and Recognitions Proposed by Residents.** A request by a resident to place a proclamation or recognition on the agenda must be made as follows:
 - a. **When Request Must be Made.** The request must be made at least four weeks in advance of the Board meeting date.
 - b. **Request Made to the Clerk.** The resident must 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.
 - c. **Review of the Request for Completeness and Distribution.** Upon submittal of the request, the Clerk will review the submittal for completeness and forward it to the Supervisors for review.
 - d. **Adding the Proclamation or Recognition to the Agenda; Informing the Requester.** 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 so that they are received no later than two business days before 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 must 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 must be received by the County no later than nine calendar days before the date of the advertised public hearing. This Rule 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 must 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.*

B. Order of Business at Regular Meetings. At Regular Meetings of the Board, the order of business will be generally 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, Matters Previously Considered by the Board, or Matters Pending Before the Board.
8. Consent Agenda.
9. General Business.
10. Closed Meeting.
11. Certify Closed Meeting.
12. Actions Resulting from Closed Meeting.
13. From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda, Matters Previously Considered by the Board, or Matters Pending Before the Board.
14. General Business, Including Public Hearings.
15. From the Board: Committee Reports and Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.
16. From the County Executive: Report on Matters Not Listed on the Agenda.
17. Adjourn.

C. Closed Meetings. A *Closed Meeting* is a meeting of the Supervisors that is not open to the public when authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code § 2.2-3700 *et seq.*). 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 must 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, including removing an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate action, 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 may 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, Matters Previously Considered by the Board, or Matters Pending Before the Board.** *From the Public: Matters Not Listed for Public Hearing on the Agenda, Matters Previously Considered by the Board, or Matters Pending Before the Board* ("Matters from the Public") 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, any matter that was previously considered by the Board, and any matter pending before the Board that is not on that days' Board agenda. The following rules apply:
1. **Number of Speakers.** Up to 10 persons may speak during each Matters from the Public session. The 10 speakers are determined on a first-come, first-served basis, with those persons signing up to speak before the meeting having priority.
 2. **Time.** Each speaker may speak for up to three minutes.
 3. **Place.** Each speaker may speak using electronic communication means or, if the speaker physically attends the meeting, must speak from the podium or other location provided for the meeting.
 4. **Manner.** In order to allow the Board to efficiently and effectively conduct its business, each speaker may speak at only one Matters from the Public session at each meeting, must address only the Board, and must not engage in speech or other behavior that actually disrupts the meeting. The speaker may include a visual or audio presentation, provided that the presentation is received by the Clerk at least 48 hours before the Matters from the Public session at which the speaker plans to speak.
- E. **Consent Agenda.** The *Consent Agenda* is for items for action that do not require discussion or comment and are anticipated to have the unanimous approval of the Board, and for items provided for the Board's information.
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 before the Board meeting.
 2. **Discussion and Comment.** There should be either no discussion or comment or only a brief discussion or comment on Consent Agenda items at the meeting except as provided in Rule 6(E)(3).
 3. **Removing an Item from the Consent Agenda.** Any Supervisor may remove an item from the Consent Agenda at the time the Final Agenda is being considered for adoption. Any item removed from the Consent Agenda should be moved to a specific time or to the end of the meeting agenda for further discussion or action. However, an item removed from the Consent Agenda requiring only brief comment or discussion may be considered immediately after the approval of the Consent Agenda.
 4. **Effect of Approval of the Consent Agenda.** A successful motion to approve the Consent Agenda approves those Consent Agenda items identified for action and accepts Consent Agenda items identified for information.
- F. **General Business.** *General Business* includes public hearings, work sessions, appointments, and other actions, discussions, and presentations.
1. **Public Hearings.** The Board may 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 public hearing or consideration of the item. The procedures for receiving a presentation from the applicant and comments from members of the public are at the discretion of the Board provided that they satisfy all minimum legal requirements. However, unless otherwise decided by a majority of the Supervisors present during a particular public hearing, the following rules apply:

- a. **Time.** The applicant is permitted up to 10 minutes to present its application. Following the applicant's presentation, any member of the public is permitted to speak once for up to three minutes on the item. Following comments by members of the public, the applicant is permitted up to five minutes for a rebuttal presentation.
- b. **Place.** The applicant and each member of the public presenting and speaking may speak using electronic communication means and, if the speaker physically attends the meeting, must speak from the podium or other location provided for the meeting.
- c. **Manner.** In order to allow the Board to efficiently and effectively conduct its business, each speaker must address only the Board, speak to issues that are relevant to the item for which the public hearing is being held, and not engage in speech or other behavior that actually disrupts the meeting. The applicant and its representatives may include a visual or audio presentation. Any other speaker may also include a visual or audio presentation, provided that the presentation is received by the Clerk at least 48 hours before the time scheduled for the public hearing.

- 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 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 must consider whether deferral or denial would be in the public interest or would forward the purposes of this policy.

3. Action Items on Deferred Matters Not Listed on the Agenda for Public Hearing When Public Hearing Previously Held. On any matter before the Board for action that is not listed on the agenda for public hearing and was previously deferred after the close of a public hearing, the following rules apply:

- a. **Time.** The applicant is permitted up to seven minutes to present its application and any member of the public is permitted to speak once for up to two minutes on the item. Following comments by members of the public, the applicant is permitted up to five minutes for a rebuttal presentation.
- b. **Place and Manner.** The place and manner rules in Rule 6(F)(1)(b) and (c) apply.

- 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* is 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 quorum for any meeting of the Board is a majority of the members of the Board present, except as provided in Rule 7(B)(2). (Virginia Code § 15.2-1415; Continuity of Government Ordinance)
- B. Quorum Required to Act; Exceptions.** The Board may take valid actions only if a quorum is present. (Virginia Code § 15.2-1415; Continuity of Government Ordinance) 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; Continuity of Government Ordinance)
- 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 is 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

A Supervisor may participate in a meeting through electronic communication means while a continuity of government ordinance adopted by the Board pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, and pertaining to the COVID-19 disaster, is in effect and the ordinance, or State law, or a combination thereof, allow Supervisors to participate in a meeting through electronic communication means.

9. Conducting the Business of the Board

- A. Enable Efficient and Effective Conduct of Business.** Meetings will 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 must 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 Matters from the Public or during a public hearing must comply with Rule 6(D).
 - 2. Persons Physically Attending the Meeting.** Any person physically attending a meeting

must 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 or other location provided for the meeting 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.
 - 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 physically attending the meeting.
- C. **Guidelines Stated on the Final Agenda.** The Guidelines stated on the 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 is to maintain order of the meeting, including the following:
1. **Controlling Disruptive Behavior of Persons Physically Attending the Meeting.** The Chair may ask any person physically attending a meeting 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.
 2. **Controlling Disruptive Behavior of Persons Participating Through Electronic Communication Means.** The Chair may ask any person participating in a meeting through electronic communication means 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 ask the Clerk to silence the audio and video of that person.

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 must 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 must be initiated by a motion that is seconded; provided that a second is not required if debate immediately follows the motion. Any motion that is neither seconded nor immediately followed by debate may not be further considered.
 2. **Voting and Recording the Vote.** The vote on any motion must be by a voice vote. The Clerk must 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 must 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 defeats the motion voted upon. A tie vote on a motion to approve is deemed a denial of the item being proposed for approval. A tie vote on a motion to deny is not deemed an approval of the item being proposed for denial, and another motion may be made.
- 5. **Abstention.** Any Supervisor who will abstain from voting on any motion must declare the abstention before the vote is taken and state the grounds for abstaining. The abstention must be recorded by the Clerk.

B. Motion and Vote Required to Act; Exception. The Board acts on matters 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, must be made by a motion followed by a vote.
- 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 must 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 must call for a vote on the motion to call the question without debate on the motion itself, and the motion takes precedence over any other item. If the motion is approved, the Chair must 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, is 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 are 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 are 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.
- 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.** The Board may amend any Rule by any of the following procedures:
 - 1. Notice Followed by Action at Next Regular Meeting.** A Supervisor provides notice of an intention to amend the Rules to the other Supervisors present at a Regular Meeting, followed by a majority vote of the Supervisors present and voting to amend the Rules at the next Regular Meeting
 - 2. Notice Followed by Action at Later Regular Meeting.** A Supervisor provides notice of an intention to amend the Rules to the other Supervisors present at a Regular Meeting and requests that the proposed amendment be considered at a meeting other than the next Regular Meeting; at the same meeting, a majority of the Supervisors present and voting establish the later Regular Meeting date at which the proposed amendment will be considered; followed by a majority vote of the Supervisors present and voting to amend the Rules at the Regular Meeting.
 - 3. By Supermajority Vote.** A proposed motion to amend is added to the Final Agenda at any Regular Meeting; at the same meeting, five or more Supervisors vote to amend the Rules. This procedure should be used only to make minor technical amendments deemed to be

necessary to allow the Board to efficiently and effectively conduct its business.

- C. **Motion.** The motion to amend a Rule may be made by any Supervisor. Upon a proper second, the motion must 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.
- D. **Limitation on the Effect of an Amendment.** The Board's approval of a motion to amend one or more Rules does 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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(Adopted 2-15-73; Amended and/or Readopted 9-5-74, 9-18-75; 2-19-76; 1-3-77; 1-4-78; 1-3-79; 1-2-80; 1-7-81; 1-6-82; 1-5-83; 1-3-84; 1-2-85; 1-3-86; 1-7-87; 1-6-88; 1-4-89; 1-2-90; 1-2-91; 1-2-92; 1-6-93; 1-5-94; 1-4-95; 1-3-96; 1-2-97; 1-7-98; 1-6-99; 1-5-2000; 1-3-2001; 1-9-2002; 1-8-2003; 1-7-2004; 1-5-2005; 1-4-2006; 1-3-2007; 1-9-2008; 1-7-2009; 1-6-2010; 1-5-2011; 1-4-2012; 1-09-2013; 1-8-2014; 7-9-2014; 1-7-2015; 1-6-2016; 1-4-2017; 2-8-2017; 1-3-2018; 3-20-2019; 01-08-2020; 9-2-2020).