

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Alleghany County, Virginia held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Alleghany County Governmental Complex, Covington, Virginia, thereof:

PRESENT: G. Matt Garten, Chairman
James M. Griffith, Vice-Chairman
Stephen A. Bennett
Gregory A. Dodd
Cletus W. Nicely
Ronald S. Goings

and Ken McFadyen, County Administrator
Suzanne T. Adcock-Nicely, Director of Finance
Jonathan Fitch, Director of Public Safety
John Fitzgerald, Assistant County Attorney
Melissa A. Munsey, Deputy Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Shannon P. Cox

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the adjourned meeting to order

Mr. Nicely gave the invocation and the audience remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL - AMENDMENT TO CH. 58 - TAXATION OF THE COUNTY CODE (TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX ACCOMMODATIONS INTERMEDIARY FILING):

Public Hearing was held to consider an amendment to Chapter 58-Taxation of "The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia" to add a section to Article IX - Transient Occupancy Tax to comply with State legislation in regards to the filing by an accommodations provider that utilizes an accommodations intermediary.

The Chairman announced that this public hearing was advertised in the Virginian Review on Tuesday, July 22, 2025 and Tuesday, July 29, 2025 in accordance with the Code of Virginia. He then called the public hearing to order.

Mr. McFadyen stated that the amendment is a result of the passage of HB2383, which pertains to the remittance of the transient occupancy tax. He commented that the amendment would allow accommodations providers that use a third-party intermediary, such as Airbnb, Expedia, etc., to no longer have to file a monthly return, but would have to file annually. He stated that the intermediary would remit taxes on their behalf. He mentioned that the transient occupancy tax is currently 5% (2% to the general fund and 3% to tourism) with a projected \$200,000 in annual revenue.

There being no one else who wished to speak, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Dr. Goings, that the Board waive its policy of not acting on a public hearing on the same night.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Absent
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

On motion of Mr. Bennett, seconded by Dr. Goings, the following amendments proposed at the Public Hearing held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 to The Code of the County of Alleghany, Virginia in Chapter 58 entitled "Taxation" be adopted as follows:

**CH. 58
TAXATION**

ARTICLE IX. TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

Sec. 58-265. Report and remittance of tax.

ADD:

(g) An accommodations provider shall not be required to submit a report to the Commissioner of the Revenue if (i) all retail sales of accommodations owned by the accommodations provider are facilitated by an accommodations intermediary and (ii) the accommodations provider attests to the locality that all such sales are facilitated by an accommodations intermediary. Such attestation shall be effective for 12 months beginning with the month in which the attestation is made. Thereafter, such attestation shall be due annually on a date determined by the Commissioner of the Revenue, on such forms and in such manner as the Commissioner of the Revenue may prescribe and require. However, such accommodations provider shall make out and submit a report in accordance with this subsection for the retail sale of any accommodations not facilitated by an accommodations intermediary and shall remit such tax as otherwise required by this article.

Adopted: August 5, 2025

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Adopted by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Bennett	Yes
Mrs. Cox	Absent
Mr. Dodd	Yes
Mr. Garten	Yes
Dr. Goings	Yes
Mr. Griffith	Yes
Mr. Nicely	Yes

ALLEGHANY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Deputy Clerk to the Board

PUBLIC COMMENT (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT):

No one spoke at this time.

MS. SUSAN HAMMOND, VDOT RESIDENT ENGINEER - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Ms. Susan Hammond, VDOT Resident Engineer, gave an update on the following VDOT activities:

Maintenance

- Laid plant mix on Rts. 42, 661, Johnson’s Creek, Ogles Creek, and Rt. 18.
- Repaired shoulders on Rts. 666, 641, 687, 42, 619, 616, 617 and 220.
- Graded, ditched and repaired shoulders on gravel roads Rts. 604, 614, 633, 603 and 613.
- Cleared storm debris and pipes on secondary routes County-wide and on primary Rts. 18, 42, 159, 311 and 220.
- Boom axed Rt. 648.
- Second round of mowing underway for primary and secondary routes.
- Major storm damage repairs on Rts. 687, 641 and 666.
- Rt. 42 bridge night closures are expected to continue for another six weeks barring any additional rain delays.
- Rt. 770 slide repair will begin in September. She mentioned it was delayed until the new fiscal year due to significant winter weather budgetary issues.

Mr. Griffith asked if VDOT maintains the road from the end of Dolly Ann Drive on or if the Forest Service does. Ms. Hammond replied that VDOT just maintains to the “end of state maintenance” sign and not all the way through.

Mr. Garten thanked VDOT for the swift fix of Indian Draft Road when the area received 6" of rain in less than an hour. He commented that on Rt. 220N just outside the City limits a culvert was replaced and has settled. He mentioned that there is a dip on Rt. 220N where the highwall is in the southbound lane.

APPROVE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR MR. WILLIAM “LANCE” CARSON:

Mr. Garten read the draft Resolution of Respect for Mr. William “Lance” Carson.

On motion of Mr. Garten, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Mr. William E. “Lance” Carson, Mayor of the City of Covington from January 2025 to present, passed away on July 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carson gave unselfishly of his time to the community and the Alleghany Highlands, setting an example of citizenship throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carson served in numerous capacities to better the Alleghany Highlands, including as a member of Covington City Council and its current Mayor, member of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, Roanoke Regional Partnership Board of Directors, and Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation; retired from the Alleghany-Covington Department of Social Services in 2018 with nearly 35 years of service; and coached Special Olympics, as well as having served on and volunteered for many other organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors, in honor and respect, does hereby recognize the life of Mr. William E. "Lance" Carson for his loyalty, dedication, and service to his community, the County of Alleghany, and the Alleghany Highlands;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to the family of Mr. Carson.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Absent
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

APPROVE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY REQUEST FOR VRS ENHANCED HAZARDOUS DUTY RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR QUALIFYING FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS:

Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there is a request from the Department of Public Safety in the agenda packet requesting the same VRS enhanced hazardous duty benefit that the Sheriff's Office requested and received earlier this year for qualifying full-time firefighters and emergency medical technicians. She commented that the benefit will help with retention and staffing.

Mr. Nicely asked how many qualify. Ms. Adcock-Nicely stated that there are four employees.

Mr. Griffith asked how much the benefit would be. Ms. Adcock-Nicely replied that it is a 0.15% increase and the employee would be considered a Plan 2 VRS employee and not a hybrid.

Mr. Garten asked if this would just be for the full-time employees. Ms. Adcock-Nicely replied that is correct that it is only for full-time employees.

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Dodd, that the following resolution be adopted:

ENHANCED HAZARDOUS DUTY BENEFITS

WHEREAS, subject to the approval of the Virginia Retirement System ("VRS") Board of Trustees, *Code of Virginia* § 51.1-138 permits a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia currently participating in VRS to make an irrevocable election to provide enhanced hazardous duty retirement benefits for its eligible employees as outlined in § 51.1-138.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors (the "Employer") does hereby elect to have such employees of Employer who are employed in positions as full time Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians and whose tenure is not restricted as to temporary or provisional appointment, become eligible, effective the first day of September 2025, for VRS benefits equivalent to those provided for state police officers of the Department of State Police, as set out in § 51.1-138 including the retirement multiplier of 1.85% in lieu of the benefits that would otherwise be provided to such employees, and Employer agrees to pay the employer cost for providing such benefits; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the officers of Employer are hereby authorized and directed in the name of Employer to carry out the provisions of this resolution and to pay to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by Employer for this purpose.

Unanimously adopted by the following roll call vote:

Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Absent
Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
James M. Griffith	Yes
G. Matt Garten	Yes

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. McFadyen handed out and gave a report on the following items. The report and attachments are a part of the records of this meeting:

- *The Allegheny Highlands Housing Summit is scheduled for Thursday, August 14th at Mountain Gateway Community College. Currently we have 80+ registered for the event. The Summit's agenda is attached. Please attend if you are able.*
- *Melissa is leading our Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) project in the Crows-Hematite community to serve 370 addresses with broadband access. A community information meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Dunlap Fire Department and Rescue Squad.*
- *Attached is correspondence sent to Delegate Austin concerning an unannounced road closure of Big Ridge Road in late June.*
- *Public Works is finalizing the engineering task order for needed repairs to the Intervale wastewater pump station. We expect to initiate engineering of the repairs this calendar month.*
- *Public Works is working with Ingevity, the City of Covington WWTP, and Bath County to provide for haulers to take certain industrial type waste that cannot go through our Island Ford Transfer Station directly to the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority's landfill at Smith Gap. The City's landfill has officially closed as of July 31, 2025.*
- *A Public Works crew should shortly begin repairs and maintenance of the Rosedale building where the Department of Social Services, Department of Elections, and other offices are located.*

Please let us know of any questions or comments. Thank you for your time and support.

Dr. Goings asked if the Housing Summit is open to the public. Mr. McFadyen replied that it is open to the public and there is a registration link on the AHEDC website by clicking on the banner at the top of that page. He stated that media advisories have been issued on the event. He mentioned that the capacity for the event is 120 and registration is slated to close on Friday. He commented that he appreciates Mr. Griffith's work helping to put together the event.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (INQUIRIES/REPORTS):

Miscellaneous

Mr. Dodd thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He thanked Mr. Jonathan Arritt, the new School Board Chairman, for attending. He mentioned that school starts next week and asked everyone to be careful.

Mr. Bennett congratulated Mr. Arritt for being appointed School Board Chairman.

Dr. Goings commented that there are five things the County is trying to work on to improve the economy in the County which are:

1. Housing - This topic was discussed by Mr. McFadyen in the meeting.
2. Workforce Development - The area does not have high unemployment and if jobs come in at the ARCC then where would they find people to work.
3. Medical Care - The cuts to Medicaid scare me and there are rumors that the local hospital will have problems.
4. Job Opportunities - Trying to do since he has been on the Board.
5. Education - It is my understanding that the Virginia Department of Education published the latest SOL scores. He commented that he has spoken with various School Board members with concerns on how the school system is doing. He stated that Callaghan and Sharon Elementary Schools are not having problems and the school system needs to find out what Sharon is doing right to duplicate in the other schools. He commented that he is concerned with the middle school and the high school as their numbers in the SOL's are in the 50% and 60% percentile which is comparable to previous years. He mentioned that there were better scores 10 years ago and he would like to see significant improvements. He stated that he did not see numbers on truancy and it was mentioned last year by the Superintendent that it was a problem. He asked parents to send their kids to school, that they ride the bus, and that they stay in school when they get there.

Mr. Arritt commented that they have made strides in truancy, but attendance factors heavily in student achievement. He stated that he would be happy to meet with him and talk in more depth.

Mr. Griffith commented that a survey was sent out regarding a potential new park in the Dolly Ann area, but the residents were not notified. He mentioned that he took the survey and if he did not answer a certain way he would get kicked out. He stated that he will not go against the wishes of the residents in Dolly Ann and that this is a one way road with no turnaround. He commented that he will vote no.

Mr. Garten thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that there are a lot of good things being worked on and congratulated Mr. Arritt. He commented that school is starting soon and buses will be out. He wished the sports teams good luck this year.

CLOSED MEETING:

On motion of Mr. Nicely, seconded by Mr. Griffith, that the Board go into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(6) and (8) for the purpose of: (1) investment of public funds; and (2) contractual matters. Unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Dr. Goings, that the Board come out of the Closed Meeting with the following certification:

CERTIFICATION
SECTION 2.2-3712

To the best of our knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the session.

/s/G. Matt Garten	Yes
/s/James M. Griffith	Yes
/s/Stephen A. Bennett	Yes
/s/Cletus W. Nicely	Yes
/s/Gregory A. Dodd	Yes
/s/Ronald S. Goings	Yes
Shannon P. Cox	Absent

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Nicely, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.

G. Matt Garten
Chairman