COUNTY OF BATH, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
BATH COUNTY COURTHOUSE ROOM 115
Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

At the Work Session and Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Bath County, Virginia, John A. Lockridge, Chairman; Roy W. Burns, Vice-Chair; Lynn Ellen Black, Ronald R. Shifflett, and James W. Bryan III, Supervisors; Julian F. Harf, County Attorney; and Janet G. Bryan, Interim County Administrator.

Chairman Lockridge opened the work session at 5:15 p.m.

Supervisor Black read the definition of maintenance.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the structure of the public works department. Board members felt public works should focus on maintaining and repairing property and equipment. Equipment that requires replacement should be the responsibility of the individual department. When departments do not have the available funds to replace equipment the department head will advise the County Administrator and the County Administrator will work with the Board of Supervisors to find a solution.

Supervisor Burns wondered if the Board should redefine public works.

Board members asked the County Attorney to develop a policy providing direction for replacement of equipment when it cannot be repaired.

Chairman Lockridge called the regular meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Chairman Lockridge called the roll.

Present: Chairman Lockridge, Vice-Chair Burns, Supervisor Black, Supervisor Shifflett, and Supervisor Bryan.

Absent: none

Chairman Lockridge led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed.

Chairman Lockridge asked the Board if they wished to approve or amend the agenda.

Supervisor Shifflett made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Supervisor Black seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Public Comment

Ann Rogers, Community Organizer for Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League provided information on industrial and environmental hazards.

Kes Phillips, Cedar Creek District encouraged the Board of Supervisors to wait until Spring 2027 to address the upcoming agreement with Visit Bath.

Jon Trees, Warm Springs District expressed frustration with the lack of radio coverage for emergency services. Mr. Trees stated the importance of the issue and questioned the cost of building towers to resolve the problem.

The following individuals spoke in favor of scheduling a work session and renewing the agreement with Visit Bath as the county's Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) in a timely manner: Kim Rexrode, Warm Springs District; Will Hodges, Warm Sprins District; Tammy Hahn, Valley Springs District; John Loeffler, Warm Springs District; Ryan Hodges, Warm Springs District; Claudia Campbell, Warm Springs District; Cynthia Boteler, Warm Springs District; and Robert Asher. John Hess, Director Sales and Marketing expressed support for Visit Bath on behalf of Omni Homestead.

Jeff Cleek, Warm Springs District asked the Board of Supervisors to carefully consider the 1% additional sales tax for school construction before adding the referendum to the 2027 ballot.

Pat Trees, Warm Springs District recognized Millboro Area Rescue for their achievements at the 2026 Virginia Association of First Responders Convention.

Jack Lindsay, Cedar Creek District commented on conditions at the Warm Springs Tower site. Mr. Lindsay stated that rodents had infested the building causing issues with communications equipment.

Board Comment

Supervisor Shifflett stated that he had been involved with tourism since the beginning, and that the current Board of Supervisors had not said anything about not funding Visit Bath. Supervisor Shifflett referred to questions that had been raised concerning the use of Funds 15 and 16.

Supervisor Burns agreed with comments regarding emergency services radio transmissions, adding that he wanted to make sure that radio equipment is properly maintained. Supervisor Burns stated that he supports renewing the agreement with Visit Bath to support tourism for the future. Supervisor Burns thanked the public for their comments.

Supervisor Bryan commented on issues with radio traffic stating that there are areas with "dead spots." Supervisor Bryan spoke in support of moving forward with a work session between the Board of Supervisors and Visit Bath to answer any remaining questions.

Supervisor Black spoke regarding the serious issues with emergency services radio transmissions and sporadic problems with Verizon cellular. Supervisor Black stated that the Board of Supervisors was not in favor of any action that would hurt tourism, but that she had been made aware of unanswered questions. Supervisor Black urged Visit Bath to provide straightforward answers to requests for information.

Chairman Lockridge expressed the importance of tourism to the county. Chairman Lockridge stated that it is the Board of Supervisors responsibility to ensure that questions are answered. Chairman Lockridge commented on the lack of maintenance at the Warm Springs tower site that caused school bus radios to be out of service for two days.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Lockridge read a thank you note from students who benefited from funding that supported the annual 4-H camp. Chairman Lockridge announced the upcoming Veteran's Day program. Chairman Lockridge recognized Millboro Area Rescue members that won several honors at the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAFR) Convention.

ABM project update

Jeff Bonnar, ABM project manager, provided an overview of work completed to date at the courthouse and schools.

Rockbridge Area Community Services (RACS) presentation and proposal for Bath County opioid abatement funding

Interim County Administrator Bryan explained that to date Bath County has received $40,596 in National Opioid Settlement funds. Bryan advised the Board of Supervisors that Don Sherman, Director of RACS, was on hand to provide additional information and answer questions regarding the request for funds.

Mr. Sherman explained that the request for funds would be used to support rehabilitation of the historic Maple Hall property and prepare it for development as a ASAM 3.1 Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Treatment Facility. The facility would expand local access to residential substance use disorder treatment for residents of Bath County, Rockbridge County, Lexington, and Buena Vista. The facility would allow for treatment closer to home and support those who are coming out of treatment with the necessary services for a successful recovery.

Chairman Lockridge stated that providing treatment options closer to home could help with the success rate of individuals coming out of treatment.

Supervisor Black asked Mr. Sherman to explain how Bath County would benefit from providing the funds to RACS.

Mr. Sherman replied that the benefit would come from helping the community and that priority would be given to those residing within areas served by RACS. Mr. Sherman provide a brief explanation of how RACS's is funded according to the Code of Virginia.

Request to advertise for proposals to resurface Valley Pool

Interim County Administrator Bryan explained that Parks and Recreation Director Celine Pritt had requested the Board of Supervisors consider releasing a request for proposals to resurface Valley Pool. Work would include removal of all existing perimeter tiles and coping stones. New

6x6 frost proof tile would be installed and grouted around the pool perimeter. White precast coping would be installed and grouted. Depth markers would be installed in the perimeter tile and recessed into the coping as required. Caulking would be installed in the joint behind new copig stones. Options for a racing lane, diving board replacement, new LED white lights, would also be requested separately. Bryan informed the Board of Supervisors that Valley and Millboro pools were last resurfaced in May 2013, and it is advised that a public or commercial pool should be resurfaced every 5 to 10 years for standard plaster finishes, according to industry standards. Bryan provided warning signs that a pool needs resurfacing.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to authorize Parks and Recreation to work with County Administration to develop and solicit a request for proposals for the Board of Supervisors consideration to fund. Supervisor Bryan seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Discussion – 1% additional local sales tax

Interim County Administrator Bryan provided an overview of the Virginia General Assembly amendments to Virginia Code Sections 58.1-605.1 and 58.1-606.1 that allow Virginia cities and counties to put forth a referendum to their voters to give the locality the power to impose an additional 1% sales and use tax. The revenues from the additional tax may only be used for school capital projects, construction and renovation. In order to appear on the ballot, Virginia localities must petition and have an order from the local circuit court on the referendum question by early August 2027. The referendum would allow voters to approve a dedicated 1% sales tax for school capital projects. Bryan explained that at this time revenues can only be used for new projects and cannot be used to pay for existing debt service. State law limits the tax to 20 years from the date the county adopts the resolution requesting the referendum.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to authorize the County Attorney to prepare the resolution requesting the referendum for the Board of Supervisors consideration. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Request to surplus a vehicle in the Sheriff's fleet

Interim County Administrator Bryan informed the Board of Supervisors that Sheriff Plecker had requested approval to surplus a 2021 Dodge Durango that was damaged in an accident, resulting in $8,551.60 in damages. The Sheriff recommended using the insurance proceeds to put toward the purchase of a new vehicle in the future instead of making the repairs to the damaged vehicle. The mileage on the damaged vehicle is in excess of 98,000 miles.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to surplus the 2021 Dodge Durango and restrict the insurance funds to help fund the purchase of a new vehicle for the Sheriff's fleet when necessary. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Paper Reduction Policy

Interim County Administrator Bryan presented the updated paper reduction policy to the Board of Supervisors for review and consideration. Bryan explained that the updated policy would be included with the revised Solid Waste Management Plan, the resolution adopting the revised plan, and the meeting minutes from the September Board of Supervisors
meeting, all of which would be submitted to DEQ for review.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to adopt the updated Paper Reduction Policy as presented. Supervisor Bryan seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Supervisor Burns made the motion to reappoint Gilbert Williams, representing the Cedar Creek District, and to reappoint Paul Dressler, representing the Williamsville District for terms on the Bath County Building Code Board of Appeals running through September 18, 2030. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Consent Agenda

Supervisor Burns made the motion to approve payment of invoices, requests for transfers and appropriations, correspondence, and monthly reports as presented. Supervisor Bryan seconded the motion, which was adopted 3 in favor, 2 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, and Bryan voting aye. Supervisor Black and Supervisor Shifflett voting nay.

Closed Session

Supervisor Burns made the motion to convene the Board of Supervisors in closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8) consultation with legal counsel regarding agreement between Bath County and Visit Bath County. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to convene the Board of Supervisors in closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) County Administrator appointment. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to end the closed session of the Board of Supervisors and reconvene the regular meeting. Supervisor Black seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett and Bryan voting aye.

Supervisor Burns moved pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3712(D) that the Board of Supervisors certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act

and only such public business matters were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett and Bryan voting aye.

Actions from Closed Session

Supervisor Burns made the motion to schedule a joint work session between Bath County Board of Supervisors and Visit Bath County for either October 21, 2026, or October 27, 2026. Supervisor Bryan seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to retract his motion made at the September 8, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting to advertise for a Deputy County Administrator. Supervisor Black seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Supervisor Burns made the motion to table discussion regarding the County Administrator appointment until the November 10, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 3 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstaining, with Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, and Shifflett, voting aye. Supervisor Black voting nay. Supervisor Bryan abstaining from the vote.

Meeting Adjournment

Supervisor Burns made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Shifflett seconded the motion, which was adopted 5 in favor, 0 against, Supervisors Lockridge, Burns, Black, Shifflett, and Bryan voting aye.

Chairperson Lockridge adjourned the meeting.

Ordered that this Board is now adjourned.

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Janet Bryan, Clerk

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John A. Lockridge, Chairman