



CHANGES TO THE AGENDA FOR April 27, 2020

- **Added Agenda Action Item #9b** - Consideration of a resolution urging Governor Northam to reopen businesses. (Resolution #R 042720-08)



REVISED MEETING AGENDA
BEDFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BEDFORD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
APRIL 27, 2020

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

- (1) Call to Order & Welcome**
- (2) Moment of Silence**
- (3) Pledge of Allegiance**
- (4) Approval of Agenda**
- (5) Citizen Comments**
- (6) Consent Agenda**
 - a. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute an Easement Agreement to the Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) at the Whitehouse Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Center. *(Resolution #R 042720-01)*
 - b. Consideration of a resolution accepting the V-STOP Grant for the Bedford Domestic Violence Program. *(Resolution #R 042720-02)*
 - c. Consideration of a resolution adopting a COVID-19 Pandemic Personnel Policy. *(Resolution #R 042720-04)*
 - d. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the application, acceptance, and appropriation of a Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Communities Partnership Grant. *(Resolution #R 042720-05)*
 - e. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute an Easement Agreement to Appalachian Power Company (AEP) at the Bedford County Landfill. *(Resolution #R 042720-06)*
 - f. Consideration of a resolution approving the Revised Capital Asset Policy. *(Resolution #R 042702-07)*
- (7) Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2020**

(8) Public Hearings & Presentations

a. Public Hearing – Proposed FY2020-2021 Budget

(9) Action & Discussion Items

a. Consideration of a request to adopt the FY2020-2021 Tax Rate Ordinance.

(Resolution #R 042720-03)

- *Staff Presentation by County Administrator Robert Hiss*

b. **ADDED** – Consideration of a resolution urging Governor Northam to reopen businesses. *(Resolution #R 042720-08)*

- *Staff Presentation by County Administrator Robert Hiss*

(10) Board Committee Reports – *none*

(11) Board Comments

(12) Board Appointments – *none*

(13) County Attorney Report

(14) County Administrator Report

(15) Board Information

a. Bedford Communications report for March 2020

(16) Board Calendar and Reminders

- May 11 – Worksession at 5:00 pm
- May 26 – Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm (Budget Adoption)

Adjourn



At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Bedford, Virginia held at the Bedford County Administration Building on the 27th day of April 2020, beginning at 7:00 pm.:

MEMBERS:

John Sharp, Chair
Charla Bansley, Vice-Chair
Mickey Johnson
Edgar Tuck
Tommy W. Scott
Bob Davis
Tammy Parker

VOTE:

On motion of Supervisor _____, which carried by a vote of _____, the following was adopted:

A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR NORTHAM TO REOPEN BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Northam issued Executive Order Fifty-One declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order Fifty-One acknowledged the existence of a public health emergency which constitutes a disaster as defined by Virginia Code § 44-146.16 arising from the public health threat presented by a communicable disease anticipated to spread; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency, beginning March 1, 2020, in response to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Bedford County Board of Supervisors confirmed the declaration of local emergency made by the local director of emergency management on March 18, 2020, specifically finding that the COVID-19 Pandemic constitutes a “disaster” as defined in Virginia Code § 44-146.16, being a “communicable disease of public health threat”; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order Fifty-Three (further amended on April 15th) ordered the closing of schools; limiting gatherings of 10 or more people; limited restaurants, dining establishments, and other similar food and drink establishments to close except for delivery and take-out services; closed all public access to recreational and entertainment businesses (including beauty salons,

barbers, etc.); defined essential businesses; and defined non-essential businesses for closure unless for pick-up services; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order Fifty-Five ordered all Virginians to remain in their place of residence thru June 10th with few exceptions dependent upon social distancing of six feet; closed institutions of higher education; ceased overnight campgrounds of less than 14 nights, and closed public beaches; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2020, President Trump, upon the recommendations of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, unveiled the guidelines for Opening Up America Again with an encouragement for Governors to consider allowing businesses to reopen in phased stages with appropriate public health safeguards; and

WHEREAS, a primary reason for closing businesses and the stay at home order was to avoid a virus spike that could overwhelm the hospitals, health centers, and the public health system; however, the growth rate trajectory of the virus in terms of daily reported cases has decreased, therefore these orders have accomplished much of the original intent; and

WHEREAS, varying regions of the Commonwealth have been impacted by the COVID-19 virus in differing manners both from a public health and economic perspective; and

WHEREAS, of April 23rd, Bedford County has experienced 21 total reported cases with 11 cases being cleared; and

WHEREAS, a uniform, one size fits all approach to closing “non-essential” businesses and retail should consider regional variances, especially the impact of closing businesses on rural areas who have significantly less COVID-19 cases per capita than metro areas; and

WHEREAS, since March 14th, Bedford County has seen 3,175 which equates to a 10% reduction in employment, many of which are the direct result of Executive Orders that allow large retailers to remain open and profitable while small businesses who operate on minimal budgets are disproportionately forced to close and may not be able to ever reopen unless the current executive orders are modified; and

WHEREAS, after nearly two months of intense public education by the federal, state, and local governments as well as all media outlets; citizens and businesses alike have a much better understanding and appreciation about how best to demonstrate healthy and safe practices for conducting their business; and

WHEREAS, businesses should be allowed to open while being cognizant of and actively practicing public health guidelines in order to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 by using tools as social distancing, face masks, consistent sterilization of common touch points, and limiting the number of patrons per square foot; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bedford County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of the COVID-19 public health crisis and is concerned about not only the health of its’ citizens, but also their economic well-being and their rights guaranteed under the Virginia and United States Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bedford County Board of Supervisors urges the Governor to communicate more with rural localities and consider their input and needs before adopting, modifying, or negating all or parts of executive orders, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bedford County Board of Supervisors strongly believe that allowing business owners to open under necessary health guidelines so customers can adjust accordingly is better than keeping the majority of small businesses closed altogether; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bedford County Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Governor to rescind prohibitions by or before May 8th related to closing businesses cited in Executive Order #53 and #55 and allow these “non-essential” and retail businesses to open under specific COVID-19 health practices.

SO, RESOLVED, this the 27th day of April, 2020.

John Sharp, Chairman
Bedford County Board of Supervisors