

An emergency meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors was called for 2:00 p.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020 at the Board meeting Room, 1 Courthouse Circle, Cumberland, Virginia:

Present: Brian Stanley, District 1  
Ron Tavernier, District 2  
Eurika Tyree, District 3  
Gene Brooks, District 4  
Robert Saunders, Jr., District 5  
Don Unmussig, County Administrator  
Brian Butler, County Attorney  
Stephany S. Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Absent: None

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Continuity of Government during the COVID-19 pandemic disaster; a communicable disease of public health threat. This meeting was held via electronic communication and in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2. A.3. Members physically present were Supervisor Tavernier and Deputy Clerk, Stephany Johnson. Members participating by telephone or other electronic communications were Chairman Stanley, Vice-Chairman Tyree, Supervisor Brooks, Supervisor Saunders, and County Administrator, Don Unmussig. Meeting notice was posted to the County website on Monday, April 6, 2020, which included information regarding the opportunities for the public to access this electronic meeting.

1. Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call of Members

Deputy Clerk, Stephany Johnson called the roll.

3. Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Supervisor Tyree, and seconded by Supervisor Brooks, The Board approved the agenda as amended:

Vote:	Mr. Stanley – aye	Mr. Tavernier – aye
	Mrs. Tyree – aye	Mr. Brooks – aye
	Mr. Saunders – aye	

4. Amendment of the Emergency Declaration of March 16, 2020 to include the designation of a disaster in accordance with Virginia Code § 15.2-1413

County Attorney, Brian Butler, informed those attending the meeting that the reason for the Ordinance was because a disaster exists which requires the county to ensure continuity in its government. Declarations of emergency have been made at all levels of government, including Cumberland. This ordinance is being enacted to conduct essential business of the Board. This meeting is being held, and public participation has been provided through the electronic meeting software.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §44-146.21, a local emergency was declared on March 16, 2020, and amended today, declaring that this local emergency constitutes a disaster. Meeting by electronic means is required due to a communicable disease of public health threat. Members of the local governing body are critical staff and interested members of the public are in vulnerable population groups. Holding a public meeting at this time where the governing body is physically assembled sends a conflicting message to the public regarding social distancing.

There are matters on upcoming agendas, including the budget, that require action. The Code of Virginia requires and allows governing bodies of localities to conduct their meetings in manners which are consistent with providing continuity of government, and in a safe and healthy manner, for the safety, health and welfare for the governing body and all interested parties, consistent with open government.

The COVID-19 virus makes it impractical and unsafe, potentially even life-threatening, for a quorum to physically assemble, and for staff and residents to gather, in one location to participate in this meeting due to the possibility of transmission of the disease. The Emergency Ordinance for Continuity of Government as prepared, allows for meetings that do not concern the emergency itself to be conducted solely electronically, and to provide public participation through electronic means.

This Ordinance has a period of effect of up to sixty (60) days, unless it is enacted with proper notice to the public at a subsequent time.

On a motion by Supervisor Tavernier and seconded by Supervisor Saunders, the Board amended the Emergency Declaration of March 16, 2020 to include the designation of a disaster in accordance with Virginia Code 15.2-1413:

Vote:	Mr. Stanley – aye	Mr. Tavernier – aye
	Mrs. Tyree – aye	Mr. Brooks – aye
	Mr. Saunders – aye	

5. CA 20-02 Emergency Ordinance ensuring Continuity of Government

On a motion by Supervisor Tavernier and seconded by Supervisor Saunders, the Board approved and enacted the Emergency Ordinance for Continuity of Government:

Vote:	Mr. Stanley – aye	Mr. Tavernier – aye
	Mrs. Tyree – aye	Mr. Brooks – aye
	Mr. Saunders – aye	

6. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned the meeting until the next meeting of the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom of the Cumberland Courthouse.

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Brian Stanley, Chairman

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Don Unmussig, County Administrator