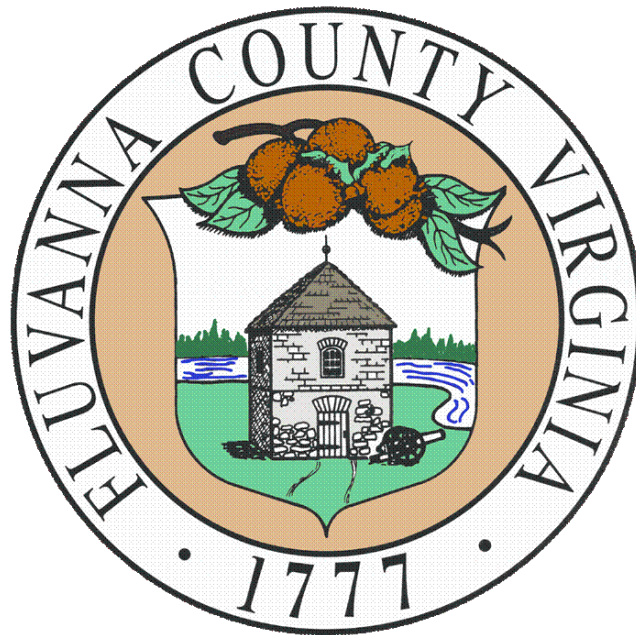


FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



2024 BYLAWS AND RULES OF PRACTICE & PROCEDURES

Adopted
May 15, 2024

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Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors
BYLAWS AND RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

I. CREATION. Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors, hereinafter called the Board, is an elected body provided by the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-1400. It consists of five members with one elected from each of the five Election Districts.

II. SEAL OF THE BOARD. When affixed to any paper or document by the Clerk for the Board, the Seal has the force and effect for authentication for the Board.

III. PRINCIPAL ADDRESS. 132 Main Street, Palmyra, Virginia, mailing address: P.O. Box 540, Palmyra, Virginia 22963.

IV. RULES

A. These Bylaws and Rules of Practice and Procedures (“Rules”) are adopted and shall apply to the Board of Supervisors of Fluvanna County. These Rules are intended to expedite transaction of the business of the Board of Supervisors in an orderly fashion. The Bylaws and Rules are deemed to be procedural only. The failure strictly to observe application of the Rules shall not affect the jurisdiction of the Board or invalidate any action taken at a meeting that is otherwise held in conformity with law.

B. All meetings and business shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules, Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th Edition), and the law of Virginia. In the event of conflict, the law of Virginia shall govern. A decision of the Chair with respect to the interpretation, applicability, or enforcement of these Rules may be overruled by a majority vote of the Members present and voting.

C. Except as otherwise provided by law, any rule of the Board may be suspended temporarily, upon approval of the majority of the Board members present and voting. The temporary suspension shall apply only to the matter under immediate consideration and, in no case, shall it extend beyond an adjournment.

D. No rule of the Board shall be adopted or amended except by majority vote of the Board.

V. CONSTRUCTION. As used in these Rules, the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular the plural unless otherwise specified herein. The word "shall" is mandatory and not discretionary; the word “may” is permissive and discretionary. The word "approve" shall be considered to be followed by the words "or disapprove".

VI. DEFINITIONS. As used in these Rules, the following terms are defined:

A. Action of Record. An action taken or decision made by the Board recorded in the Minutes of the Meetings. Except as otherwise required by law, an Action of Record may take the following forms:

1. Motions and seconds with the recorded votes of the members.
2. Consensus agreement of the Board without vote by the Board.
3. Directive of the Chair in the exercise of that office during the conduct of an official meeting of the Board.

B. Board. The Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors.

C. County Code. The Code of Fluvanna County.

D. Directive. An exercise of discretionary authority granted to the Chair from the Board empowering the Chair as follows:

1. To enforce the protocols of these Rules for the conduct of business and discourse before the Board to ensure proper decorum, civility, fairness and order.
2. To cause the removal of any person or persons without charge of civil or criminal offense for misconduct, disruption or disturbance of a meeting of the Board of Supervisors consistent with adopted policies and procedures of the Board.
3. To charge any person or persons with civil or criminal offenses pursuant to federal, state or local laws for the misconduct, disruption or disturbance of a meeting of the Board.

E. Item of Business. A matter to be presented before the Board at an official meeting, specified on the Meeting Agenda or modification thereof, and which may be subject to an Action of Record.

F. Meeting or Official Meeting. Any Annual Organizational, Regular, or Special Meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The following terms may also be used to further define and specify purposes for meetings. Meetings as defined herein are not exclusive of each other and may be concurrently conducted.

1. Annual Organizational Meeting: Pursuant to § 15.2-1416 of the Virginia Code, the Board's first meeting in the month of January. The County Administrator shall preside during the election of the Chair of the Board.

2. Joint Meeting: A Joint Meeting may be conducted simultaneously with one or more public bodies for the purpose of review, inquiry and discussion of matters of mutual interest or in the interest of expedient disposition of public business matters. Action of record may be taken at said meeting, and a quorum of both the Board and other body(ies) is required to Call to Order and conduct a Joint Special Meeting.

3. Public Information Meeting: A Public Information Meeting shall be limited to the dissemination of information to and/or from the public where the Board of Supervisors will take no Action of Record at said meeting. A quorum of the Board of Supervisors is not required to Call to Order and conduct a Public Information Meeting. Public Information Meetings may be called in the name of the Board of Supervisors or administratively by the County Administrator.

4. Public Hearing: A public hearing shall be conducted at said meeting and the Board of Supervisors may take Action of Record on such matters as may arise from the Public Hearing. A quorum of the Board of Supervisors is required to Call to Order and conduct a Public Hearing.

5. Recessed Meeting: A meeting conducted at a date, place and time set by the Board of Supervisors as a continuation of a previously held meeting. A Recessed Meeting shall be scheduled no later than the date of the next Regular Meeting.

6. Rescheduled Meeting: A Rescheduled Meeting shall be for the purpose of conducting a meeting of the Board of Supervisors where, by virtue of necessity or at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, the originally scheduled meeting cannot be conducted on its prescribed date or time or at its prescribed location pursuant to these Rules. Action of Record may be taken on any Item of Business presented at a Rescheduled Meeting, and a quorum of the Board of Supervisors is required to Call to Order and conduct a Rescheduled Meeting.

7. Work Session Meeting: A Work Session Meeting shall be for the purpose of in-depth review, inquiry and discussion of specified Items of Business where Action of Record may be taken by the Board of Supervisors. A quorum of the Board of Supervisors is required to Call to Order and conduct said meeting. Work Session Meetings may also be called and scheduled for the purposes of presentations to the Board of Supervisors for educational and informational purposes.

G. Primary Motion. The first motion presented following informal discussion of any Item of Business at a Board meeting.

H. Substitute Motion. A motion presented succeeding and in lieu of a primary motion on any Item of Business at a Board meeting.

I. Virginia Code. The 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended.

VII. **BOARD CHAIR**

A. At the first meeting of the year, the Board selects one of its members to serve as Chair. The Chair is a voting member and serves for one year, or until his successor shall be elected and qualify as such.

B. The Chair, when present, shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall take the Chair at the hour appointed for every Board meeting and shall immediately call the members to order and, except in the absence of a quorum, shall proceed with the business of the Board in the manner prescribed by these Rules. The Chair shall preserve order and decorum and shall decide all questions of order.

C. Upon the death, resignation or other permanent disability of the Chair to fulfill the duties of his office, the Board shall elect a new Chair at its next regularly scheduled meeting or as soon thereafter as possible.

VIII. BOARD VICE CHAIR

A. At the first meeting of the year, the Board selects one of its members to serve as Vice Chair. The Vice Chair is a voting member and serves for one year, or until his successor shall be elected and qualify as such.

B. In the absence, or inability to act, of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall have and exercise all the powers and duties of the Chair.

IX. BOARD MEMBERS

A. Notification of Absence. If any Board member is unable to attend a meeting, all reasonable effort shall be made to notify the Chair and the County Administrator as soon as possible to ensure there are sufficient members present and voting to consider all agenda items. The County Administrator shall continue an agenda item if there will not be a sufficient number of Board members present and voting at the meeting to approve the item.

B. Conflicts of Interest. At such times a Board member may find himself with a conflict of interest as set forth in the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3100 et seq., the Board member shall state the nature of the conflict of interest prior to an issue being heard and shall remove himself from the meeting. The member shall not vote or in any manner act on behalf of the Board with respect to the issue for which a conflict has been declared, until such time as the issue has been decided. The member shall not attend any portion of a closed meeting authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act when the issue is discussed; and will not discuss the issue with other governmental officers or employees in their official capacity at any time.

X. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR. The County Administrator shall assume the general duties as set forth in the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-1541. He shall maintain an office at the same address as the Board. The County Administrator, or a designated representative, shall attend each

meeting of the Board and shall provide such information to the Board as necessary to assist Board members in their deliberations and decision making.

XI. CLERK FOR THE BOARD. The Executive Assistant to the County Administrator is appointed and shall serve as Clerk for the Board per Section 15.2-1538.

XII. COUNTY ATTORNEY. The County Attorney shall perform the duties set forth in Code Section 15.2-1542. The County Attorney or his deputy or assistant county attorney designated by him shall attend each meeting of the Board and shall serve as adviser to the Board on issues of law relating to the Board's business. The County Attorney assists the Board in analyzing the facts, provides advice and action in legal matters, and represents the Board in civil actions.

XIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE. The County Attorney shall serve as the Parliamentarian for the purpose of interpreting these Bylaws and Rules of Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order as may be directed by the Chair, or as required as a result of a point of order raised by any one or more Board members. If the County Attorney is unavailable, the County Administrator shall serve as the Parliamentarian.

XIV. QUORUM FOR THE EXERCISE OF BOARD BUSINESS. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting Board business.

XV. MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting Schedule

1. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Fluvanna County Circuit Court at 72 Main St., Palmyra, unless another location is announced.

2. Meetings held on the first Wednesday will adjourn/recess no later than 9:00 p.m., and meetings held on the third Wednesday will adjourn/recess no later than 10:00 p.m.

3. The Board, at its pleasure, may continue its meeting beyond the normal adjournment/recess time, by majority vote of the Board members present and voting.

4. Meetings shall start at the appointed time, and if the Chair is not present, the Vice Chair shall preside.

5. If neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair is present, the County Administrator shall call the meeting to order and preside for the election of a temporary Chair.

B. Work Sessions Schedule. When needed, Work Sessions are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm, prior to the 6:00 pm Regular Meeting, in the Fluvanna County Circuit

Court at 72 Main St., Palmyra, unless another location is announced. Other days/times may be scheduled by majority consent of the Board.

C. Closed Meetings

1. Closed Meetings will be held as needed, but may only be convened in conformance with Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

2. No resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation, or motion agreed to in a Closed Meeting shall become effective until the Board reconvenes in an Open Session and takes a vote of the membership on such resolution, ordinance, rule, contract, regulation, or motion which shall have its substance reasonably identified in the open meeting.

3. At the conclusion of a Closed Meeting, the Board shall reconvene in Open Session immediately thereafter and shall take a roll call vote certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge:

a. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Session requirements were discussed; and

b. Only public business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Any member who believes that there was a departure from the above requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his judgment, has taken place.

4. The failure of the certification to receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting during the Closed Meeting shall not affect the validity or confidentiality of the Closed Meeting with respect to matters considered therein in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

5. The Board may permit non-members to attend a Closed Meeting if their presence will reasonably aid the Board in its consideration of an issue. Except as otherwise directed by the Board, the County Attorney and the County Administrator shall attend all Closed Meetings.

D. Special Meetings. The Board may hold Special Meetings as it deems necessary, at such times and places as it finds convenient, and may adjourn such special meetings from time to time as it finds convenient and necessary. Special Meetings shall be called and scheduled per §15.2-1418.

XVI. AGENDA ITEM SUBMISSION

A. All agenda items are due to the Clerk for the Board by COB Tuesday the week before the Board meeting, with the exception of presentations which are due by COB Tuesday the week of the meeting.

B. All agenda items require a *BOS Agenda Item Staff Report*. Staff Report and motion samples are available in the “Library/00-BOS Submissions” folder under “Procedures and Formats.”

C. Copy all files into the “Library/00-BOS Submissions” folder (if you do not have access to the county’s shared drive, email the materials to clerk@fluvannacounty.org).

D. Items can be in any file format (e.g., doc, docx, pdf, ppt, pptx, xls, xlsx)

E. NO paper copies of requested Agenda Items are required.

F. Name the submission files as follows:

For Agenda Category:	Name Your File:
06 Appointments	06-Short title of item similar to agenda
07 Presentations	07-
08 Action Matters	08-
09 Public Hearing	09-
10 Consent Agenda	10-
11 Unfinished Business	11-
12 New Business	12-

XVII. AGENDA PREPARATION

A. The Clerk, under the direction of the County Administrator, shall prepare the agenda for meetings.

B. The County Administrator may at his discretion, and individual Board members may by request to the County Administrator, place matters of business on the Agenda according to the schedule in paragraph XVI.A above for discussion, information and/or action by the Board as are germane to the affairs and interests of the Board and county. However, this does not prevent the County Administrator or Board members, at their discretion, from having items included which are received after the regular cutoff date.

C. Any Constitutional Officer, department head, agency head, or citizen may also submit items for Agenda consideration provided such requests are received in advance according to the schedule in paragraph XVI.A above.

D. The County Administrator shall allocate time to items on the agenda to suit the convenience of the Board.

E. If the County Administrator considers a requested agenda item not appropriate for consideration by the Board, he shall inform the Chair for a decision. This does not prevent retaining the item on the agenda by majority consent of the Board.

F. The Chairman and County Administrator shall style routine, non-controversial matters requiring Board action on a Consent Agenda. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda at the request of any Board member present. Only one motion is necessary to adopt all recommendations and action items on the Consent Agenda.

G. The Clerk for the Board shall submit the draft agenda to the Chair on the Wednesday in the week before a regularly scheduled meeting for the Chair's review and approval. Agendas for special or other meetings may have the preparation and approval timeline modified to accommodate the available timeframe.

H. Issues for which actions will be required shall normally have all materials in the agenda package for advance study.

I. The Board agenda and related materials shall be received by each member of the Board and the County Attorney not later than the Friday before the scheduled regular meeting. The Clerk for the Board may request an adjustment to the delivery schedule due to special circumstances.

J. The Clerk shall prepare extra copies of the agenda and shall make the same available to the public and the press in the Office of the County Administrator, the Public Library, and on the County website. The Clerk shall also have at least one hard copy available at each regular meeting.

XVIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS. The Order of Business shall be as follows unless the County Administrator in drawing up the Agenda shall find good cause to change it:

1 – Call to Order
2 – Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence
3 – Adoption of Meeting Agenda
4 – County Administrator's Report
5 – Public Comments #1
6 – Appointments
7 – Presentations
8 – Action Matters
9 – Public Hearing
10 – Consent Agenda
11 – Unfinished Business

12 – New Business
13 – Public Comments #2
14 – Closed Meeting (as needed)
15 – Adjourn

XIX. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

A. Basic Principles: The following principles should be observed at all times in the transaction of public business before the Board.

1. Only one subject may claim the attention of the Board at one time.
2. Each item presented for consideration is entitled to full and free discussion.
3. Every member has rights equal to every other member except as to procedural matters within the competence of the Chair.
4. The will of the majority must be carried out, and the rights of the minority must be preserved.
5. The personality and desires of each member should be merged into the larger unit of the Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors.

B. The Board shall adopt an agenda for each meeting by recorded vote of a majority of the Board members present and voting. The adoption of the agenda shall be the first item for action following the Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence.

C. Items shall be heard in order of the agenda, except as the Board decides when adopting the agenda and that the Board may vote to call up any matter at any time.

D. Except as provided in subsection F. of this Section XX, the Board shall take no Action of Record on any matter that is not on the Meeting Agenda unless a modification to the Meeting Agenda is requested at the time of Approval of the Agenda. Modification of the Meeting Agenda requires a majority vote of Board members present and voting.

E. The Board shall consider all items on the agenda before taking any other items, unless an unlisted item is brought by majority consent of the Board members present and voting.

F. Items not on the agenda shall be heard as the final items of the Board’s business, time permitting, or shall be carried over to the next regular meeting or a special meeting as determined by majority consent of the Board.

G. Exhibits before the Board shall become the property of the Board and shall be filed with the Clerk and shall be deemed a part of the record of the meeting at which submitted.

H. Citizens shall not speak at a meeting until they are recognized. Citizens shall request recognition by addressing “Mr. Chair” or “Madam Chair” (as appropriate), stating their name, their address, and awaiting acknowledgment by the Chair. The Chair may permit a dialogue without individual recognition between members of the Board or between a member and a citizen if such dialogue is orderly and contributes to the expeditious conduct of business.

I. Should it be desired by the Chair, any member, or by the County Administrator, the member making a resolution shall reduce the same to writing and deliver it to the County Administrator’s Office. The Clerk shall take down verbal resolutions as accurately as possible to reflect the intent of the Board.

J. Prior to initiating a public hearing, the Chair shall recount, either verbatim or by reference, the rules under which the hearing shall be operated, but the Board may amend the rules during the hearing by giving notice of the change to those gathered (e.g., a change to the time limitation for individual speakers).

K. At the beginning of the public hearing, the Chair shall call upon the County Administrator or the other staff member handling the matter at hand to present a description of the issue placed before the hearing, or the Chair may do so himself.

L. Subject to revocation or extension by the majority of the Board assembled, the Chair may in all matters establish a maximum time for consideration of any matter, and/or limit the amount of time available to each speaker, including Board members, on a matter and/or limit the number of times each speaker may address the Board on a matter. Regardless, every Board member is entitled to speak on every matter before the Board and the call for the question shall not be entertained until all members who wish to exercise this right shall have done so at least once.

M. All members or citizens shall limit their comments before and to the Board. The Chair may prohibit questions from citizens until a speaker has finished his presentation.

N. The Board of Supervisors has set forth the following rules for time limits for various agenda items or comments from the public, unless modified by majority consent of the Board:

1. Action Item presentations shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes.
2. Presentations shall be limited to ten (10) minutes.
3. Public Comments shall be limited to five (5) minutes per individual.

O. Once a notice for Public Hearing has been advertised (regardless of the nature), the Public Hearing will be conducted, unless the Board formally defers the matter to a future meeting. The postponement or cancellation of a public hearing shall be as follows:

1. Any public hearing scheduled for a Board of Supervisors meeting that has been publicly advertised shall not be postponed based on a request from a non-County government entity or person absent extreme mitigating circumstances. The Chair, with concurrence of the County Administrator, will determine when such circumstances exist. If mitigating circumstances exist, the petitioner will bear any cost incurred by the County in providing public notification of the change and for the cost of advertising the new date of the hearing.

2. The Chair, with the concurrence of the County Administrator, shall have the authority to postpone a public hearing based on the weather or other extraordinary circumstances.

3. In all cases, County staff will ensure all Board members are provided timely notification of schedule changes. Further, staff will ensure the public and general news media are notified of changes to schedules which have been announced in public. The public hearing shall be rescheduled, if appropriate, and advertised as required by law.

XX. MOTIONS

A. Motions by Board members shall require a second.

Exceptions. The following do not require a second:

- To Raise a Question of Privilege
- Questions of Order
- Objection to the Consideration of a Question
- Call up Motion to Reconsider
- Nominations
- Leave to Withdraw a Motion
- Inquiries of any kind

B. Motions shall not be formally discussed prior to being duly seconded.

C. After a motion is properly made and seconded, the Chair shall restate the motion and open the floor to discussion.

D. The Chair shall routinely refrain from making or seconding motions in order to fairly and impartially preside over the Board deliberations and discussion. In any case, the Chair shall not make or second a motion without first temporarily surrendering the chair to the Vice Chair, if present and willing to temporarily accept the gavel, or to another member present and willing to temporarily accept the gavel. In such event, he should not resume the chair until the motion is decided.

E. A maker of a motion may not speak against his motion.

F. The Chair shall call for and cause the vote to be recorded after the motion is properly made before the Board, has been seconded, and has been duly discussed. Any member believing a motion has been duly discussed may move or call for the previous question. Such motion shall not be debatable. However, if any member objects, the Chair shall call for a vote on the motion calling for the previous question. If that motion carries, the Chair shall proceed to call for the vote on the motion before the Board. If the motion calling for the previous question is defeated, the debate on the main motion shall continue.

G. A substitute motion may be made by any member to any motion properly on the floor. Once seconded, the substitute motion shall take precedence and all debate or action on the existing motion shall cease until the substitute motion is decided. Debate on a substitute motion is permissible. If the substitute motion is passed by a majority vote of the members then present and voting, the original motion is supplanted by the substitute motion. A second substitute motion can be made only after the first substitute motion is decided by vote of the Board.

H. When a motion is made and then cannot obtain a second, the motion will die for lack of a second and does not require a vote. However, in the event that a motion which is not seconded is nevertheless voted on by the Board and passes by a majority of the members present and voting, the failure of a second shall not invalidate the adoption of such motion.

I. Defeated Motions

1. Same Meeting: A defeated motion can be brought back for consideration at the same meeting if the members present agree to do so by a majority vote. Only a member who voted on the prevailing side may make the motion to reconsider the issue. The rule restricting renewal of a motion in the same session does not apply to a motion that died for lack of a second.

2. Subsequent Meeting: Except as otherwise provided by law, a defeated motion that is still applicable can be re-introduced at a subsequent meeting as new business (under the normal process for new business).

XXI. VOTING

A. All Actions of Record must be approved by vote unless there is unanimous consent.

B. When the question is called and there is no dispute, the Chair shall call for the vote.

C. Whenever any member wishes to abstain from voting on any question, he shall so state and, if because of a conflict, shall indicate in accordance with the Virginia Conflict of Interests Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-3100 et seq., and his abstention shall be announced by the Chair and recorded by the Clerk.

D. The Chair's vote on all issues before the Board shall be recorded with the prevailing side, unless the Chair clearly votes otherwise.

E. The Clerk shall record the name of each member voting and how he voted.

F. A tie vote fails. The Board does not designate a tiebreaker pursuant to § 15.2-1421 of the Virginia Code.

G. Except as otherwise provided by law, motions shall be carried by a majority of the members present and voting in the affirmative (§15.2-1420), except that a majority affirmative vote of all members shall be required for any appropriation exceeding \$500.00, the imposition of taxes, and the authorization for borrowing money (§15.2-1428).

XXII. RECORDING OF MEETINGS. The Clerk for the Board shall record each regular meeting. These recordings are the property of the Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors and are public records as provided by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Interested persons may listen to the recordings on the County website or in the County Administrator's office, or may obtain copies of the recording by making appropriate arrangements with the County Administrator's office. Costs will be borne by the person making the request. The original recordings shall not be borrowed or removed from the County Office Building, except under the specific prior authorization of the County Administrator.

XXIII. ORDERLY CONDUCT

A. It shall be the duty of the Chair to maintain order and decorum at meetings. The Chair, when presiding at a meeting of the Board, without vacating the chair, shall refer any point of order to the Parliamentarian.

B. In maintaining decorum and propriety of conduct, the Chair shall not be challenged and no debate shall be allowed until after the Chair declares that order has been restored. In the event the Board wishes to debate the matter of the disorder or the bringing of order, the regular business may be suspended to discuss the matter by majority vote of the Board members present and voting.

C. No member or citizen shall be allowed to use defamatory or abusive language directed at any member of the Board or other person, to create excessive noise, or in any way incite persons to use such tactics. The Chair shall be the judge of such breaches, however, the Board may by majority vote of the Board members present and voting to overrule the judgment of the Chair.

D. When a person engages in such breaches, the Chair may order the person's removal from the building, or may order the person to stand silent, may order the person removed from the County property, and may, at his discretion, bring formal charges for disruption of a public meeting.

XXIV. AD HOC COMMITTEES. Ad hoc committees will be appointed by the Chair as needed. Constitutional Officers may be appointed to committees.

XXV. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES (BCC)

A. The Board may appoint such advisory boards, committees and commissions as it may deem necessary pursuant to Code Section 15.2-1411.

B. Information on all nominees for such appointments, whether to represent the County as a whole or a particular election district, shall be included in the Board package for the meeting at which the appointment will be considered. It shall be the policy of the Board as a whole to scrutinize and agree upon all appointees to represent the County in any capacity.

C. Appointments shall generally not be made more than 45 days prior to the commencement of a term for which the appointment is made.

XXVI. OFFICIAL BOARD TRAVEL AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

A. A Board member may travel officially in-state at the Board member's discretion. In-state travel shall include travel to Washington, D.C.

B. A Board member shall obtain advance Board approval for official out-of-state travel.

C. Supervisors are not eligible for mileage reimbursement for regularly scheduled BOS meetings (held generally on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays).

D. Supervisors are eligible for mileage reimbursement for travel to and from:

1. BOS special meetings and work sessions not scheduled in conjunction with a regular meeting. Examples include periodic strategic planning meetings, budget meetings or other work sessions on different days from regular meetings, meetings with staff, etc.

2. Town hall meetings, community events, Chamber events, local area functions, etc., in support of their role as a County Supervisor.

3. Board, commission, and committee meetings when assigned as a part of their service as a County Supervisor (excluding Planning Commission and Social Services Board).

E. Supervisors may also be eligible for mileage reimbursement as private citizens for travel to and from various board, commission, and committee (BCC) meetings when assigned by the Board of Supervisors to such BCC roles.

F. Supervisors may complete and submit reimbursement claims following the procedures outlined in Policy 2.19, Travel and Expense Reimbursement.

XXVII. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN CHECKS, AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN WITH STAMP

A. The Chair, Vice Chair, County Administrator, and Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign and issue checks without prior approval of the Board for the following purposes: end of the month salaries, end of the month contracted personal services, utility payments, and other payments deemed appropriate and necessary by the Chair, County Administrator, and Treasurer; such actions to be reviewed and ratified at the next appropriate meeting of the Board.

B. The Chair of the Board of Supervisors, and in his absence, the Vice Chair, are authorized to substitute his facsimile signature provided he/she signs a certified list of individual checks for which his facsimile signature is authorized; also the signature plates are in the sole possession of the Treasurer.

XXVIII. POLICY FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE FLUVANNA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

A. AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

1. This policy shall govern participation by an individual member of the Board of Supervisors of Fluvanna County, Virginia, by electronic communication means in public meetings of the Board of Supervisors of Fluvanna County, Virginia, and any closed session of the Board held in accordance with applicable law, from and after the date of adoption of this policy.
2. This policy is adopted pursuant to the authorization of Va. Code § 2.2-3708.3 and is to be strictly construed in conformance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA), Va. Code §§ 2.2-3700—3715.
3. Any reference to a specific provision of federal, state, or local law referenced in this policy shall mean such provision of law, as amended from time to time, or as set forth in any successor provision dealing with substantially the same subject.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. “Board” means the Board of Supervisors of Fluvanna County, Virginia, or any committee, subcommittee, or other entity of the Board.
2. “Member” means any member of the Board.
3. “Remote participation” means participation by an individual member of the Board by electronic communication means in a public meeting where a quorum of the Board is physically assembled, as defined by Va. Code § 2.2-3701.

4. "Meeting" means a meeting as defined by Va. Code § 2.2-3701.
5. "Notify" or "notifies," for purposes of this policy, means verbal or written notice that is reasonable under the circumstances, with written notice, such as by email or letter, being the preferred means of notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, notice does not include text messages or communications via social media.
6. "VFOIA" means the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Va. Code § 2.2-3700, et seq.

C. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Regardless of the reasons why the member is participating in a meeting from a remote location by electronic communication means, the following conditions must be met for the member to participate remotely:

1. A quorum of the Board must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location; and
2. Arrangements have been made for the voice of the remotely participating member to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location. If at any point during the meeting the voice of the remotely participating member is no longer able to be heard by all persons at the meeting location, the remotely participating member shall no longer be permitted to participate remotely.

D. PROCESS TO REQUEST REMOTE PARTICIPATION

1. On or before the day of the meeting, and at any point before the meeting begins, the requesting member must notify the Board Chair (or the Vice-Chair if the requesting member is the Chair) that such member is physically unable to attend a meeting due to (i) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance, (ii) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance, (iii) such member's principal residence location more than 60 miles from the meeting location, or (iv) a personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter.
2. The requesting member shall also notify County staff of the request, but such member's failure to do so shall not affect such member's ability to participate remotely. Notification to a County staff member that is conveyed by a County staff member to the Board Chair or Vice-Chair, as applicable, shall constitute notice to the Board Chair or Vice Chair as required by this policy.
3. If the requesting member is unable physically to attend the meeting due to a personal matter, the requesting member must state with specificity the nature of the personal

matter and that such matter renders the requesting member unable physically to attend. Remote participation due to a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. There is no limit to the number of times that a member may participate remotely for the other authorized purposes listed in (i) - (iii) above.

4. The requesting member is not obligated to provide independent verification regarding the reason for such member's nonattendance, including the temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition or the family member's medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance at the meeting.
5. The Chair (or the Vice-Chair if the requesting member is the Chair) shall promptly notify the requesting member whether the request is in conformance with this policy, and therefore approved or disapproved.

E. PROCESS TO CONFIRM APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION FROM A REMOTE LOCATION

When a quorum of the Board has assembled for the meeting, the Board shall vote to determine whether:

1. The Chair's decision to approve or disapprove the requesting member's request to participate from a remote location was in conformance with this policy; and
2. The voice of the remotely participating member can be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

F. RECORDING IN MINUTES:

1. If the member is allowed to participate remotely due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care to the family member, or because the member's principal residence is located more than 60 miles from the meeting location the Board shall record in its minutes (1) the foregoing circumstance due to which the member is participating remotely; (2) the Board's approval of the member's remote participation; and (3) a general description of the remote location from which the member participated.
2. If the member is allowed to participate remotely due to a personal matter, the Board shall record in its minutes (1) the specific nature of such personal matter that renders the requesting member unable to attend stated by the requesting member; (2) how many times the member has attended remotely due to a personal matter; (3) the

Board's approval of the member's remote participation; and (4) a general description of the remote location from which the member participated.

3. If a member's request to participate remotely is disapproved, the disapproval, including the grounds upon which the requested participation violates this policy or VFOIA, shall be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

G. CLOSED SESSION

If the Board goes into closed session, the member may continue to participate remotely in the closed session, and shall ensure that no third party is able to hear or otherwise observe the closed meeting.

H. STRICT AND UNIFORM APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY

This Policy shall be applied strictly and uniformly, without exception, to the entire membership, and without regard to the identity of the member requesting remote participation or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting. Unless independently received by County staff, the Chair (or Vice-Chair) shall provide County staff with copies of the member's written request to participate remotely and the written response, as applicable, if the request or response is in writing, to be retained by County staff for a period of one year, or other such time required by records retention laws, regulations, and policies.

I. MEETINGS HELD THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEANS DURING DECLARED STATES OF EMERGENCY

- A. In addition to the foregoing, pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3708.2 the Board may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with the Code of Virginia Section 44-146.17, or Fluvanna County has declared a local state of emergency pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 44-146.21, provided that (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to provide for the continuity of operations of the Board or the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. The Board when convening a meeting in accordance with this subdivision (G) shall:
 1. Give public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided to members of the Board conducting the meeting;
 2. Make arrangements for public access to such meeting through electronic communication means;

3. Provide the public with the opportunity to comment at those meetings of the Board when public comment is customarily received;
 4. Otherwise comply with the provisions of the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3708 VFOIA; and
 5. State in its minutes the nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means, and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held.
- J. Nothing in this Section XXVIII shall be construed to prohibit the use of interactive audio or video means to expand public participation.