

**For consideration on September 21, 2010**

A resolution, to modify the rules of procedure governing the manner in which meetings of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors are conducted, to provide further guidance relating to the expression of citizen comments during Board meetings.

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Approved as to form and legality  
by the County Attorney

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST:**

**I. That the rules of procedure governing meetings of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors are amended with respect to citizen comments, as follows:**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors values citizen comments and wishes to hear from County citizens regarding issues of concern to them; and

**WHEREAS**, the increasingly diverse and complex issues presented to the Board require the most effective use of the Board's meeting time; and

**WHEREAS**, the current rules of procedure provide minimal guidance regarding citizen comments; and

**WHEREAS**, the current rules of procedure provide no guidance regarding how the Board can provide a meaningful response to a concern or issue raised by a citizen; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors wishes to provide additional guidance to ensure that citizens can communicate most effectively at public meetings.

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST:**

That the Board hereby modifies its rules of procedure to include the following additional language after the fourth paragraph in Section V:

Citizens wishing to comment during the period allocated on the Board's agenda for citizen comment ("Citizen Comments") shall place their name on a sheet provided by the Board prior to the start of the Board's meeting. Comments shall be addressed directly to the Board, and shall be limited in time to three minutes. Comments may address the performance, conduct, and qualifications of public figures; however, comments shall not employ language which insults or demeans

any person or which, when directed at a public official or employee is not related to his or her official duties. There shall be no comment during Citizen Comments on a matter for which a public hearing is scheduled during the same meeting, or on a matter that has already been the subject of a previous public hearing where no final vote has been taken. Any issue raised during Citizen Comments which the Board wishes to consider may be put on the agenda for a future Board meeting or work session by a majority vote. Board members shall not discuss issues raised in the course of Citizen Comments except by agreement expressed in a majority vote.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That a copy of the rules of procedure relating to citizen comments shall be made available for review by citizens signing up to speak before the Board.

**II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon passage.**

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_. 2010.

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Donald L. Kidd, Chairman  
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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C. Lee Lintecum  
Amherst County Administrator