

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
January 27, 2026

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Chair, Fairfield District
Misty D. Roundtree, Vice-Chair, Three Chopt District
Daniel J. Schmitt, Brookland District
Jody K. Rogish, Tuckahoe District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoulikas, County Manager
Andrew R. Newby, County Attorney
Tanya N. Brackett, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Michael Y. Feinmel, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Monica Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Steven J. Yob, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations

All Henrico Reads Update

Andrew Newby, County Attorney, informed the Board of the upcoming All Henrico Reads event, which will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at the Henrico Sports and Events Center. This year's featured author will be Walter Mosley, and his bestseller *Gray Dawn*. This is the 17th year for this signature annual event. The program is a partnership of Henrico Library, Henrico County Public Schools, and the Friends of the Henrico County Public Library.

Mr. Newby noted Mr. Mosley's accomplishments including the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Edgar Award, the Crime Writers' Association Diamond Dagger, the New York State Writers Hall of Fame, and lifetime achievement awards from both PEN America and the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.

Presentation on New Business Program

Mr. Vithoulikas recognized Cari Tretina, Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority. Ms. Tretina thanked the Manager and recognized Will Cowser, Jonathan Greenley, and Mike Limberg with Amazon, and Ebonie Atkins, Managing Director of the Economic Development Authority, who was also in attendance for the presentation.

Mr. Cowsert briefed the Board on Amazon's Prime Air business program, which currently operates in Arizona, Florida, Texas, and Michigan. He shared how the program operates, with drones delivering packages to customers in a designated service area. The drones are approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, and safety is the topmost priority of the program.

Mr. Cooper noted the program was stopped briefly because a drone in Arizona hit a crane. Mr. Limberg explained the crane was operating above the 200-foot threshold allowed by law. Amazon immediately grounded the drone and worked with the FAA to strengthen the program.

Mr. Rogish questioned if the drone can operate at night. Mr. Limberg stated they are only authorized by the FAA to operate during the day. Mr. Rogish asked whether it would only be Henrico or would it include other localities. Mr. Limberg stated they are planning to speak with the City of Richmond and Hanover County because the operating territories include areas of those localities.

Mr. Cowsert explained that the Prime Air Drone Delivery Center (PADDC) would be added to Amazon's current facility near the Racetrack.

Mrs. Roundtree asked if the drone delivery will include a picture for the customer for each successful delivery. Mr. Cowsert said he would follow up with that information. Mrs. Roundtree explained County schools have many ACE Centers and specialty programs and wondered if Amazon would be interested in partnering with our Schools for internship programs, particularly our robotics programs. Mr. Cowsert explained this is all part of their outreach campaign and would love the opportunity to speak with Schools on this.

Mr. Schmitt questioned if the Board of Supervisors had to make any approvals of the program. Joe Emerson, Director of Planning, explained right now Amazon needs a construction permit for the new PADDC, but does not need County approval to operate the drones – that approval comes exclusively from the Federal Aviation Administration. Mr. Cowsert responded to additional questions from Mr. Schmitt regarding the capacity of the facility and how many drones will be at the site, noting the facility will be able to hold up to 12 drones with the capacity to have 24. He estimated around 100 flights a day.

Mr. Schmitt questioned if the drones have caused property damage or power line damage. Mr. Cowsert explained that the drone has built in commands to be able to make a soft landing if it detects a problem. Mr. Schmitt requested if the decision is to move forward, they work with the County's Metro Aviation Unit, so they will be able to track the drones and see them in the air space.

Mr. Vithoukas thanked Amazon and informed the Board this was just the start of the conversation with Amazon. He will keep the Board updated on the discussions.

On motion of Mr. Rogish, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the Board approved going into a closed meeting at 4:57 p.m.:

Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice concerning legislative processes, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye
Roscoe D. Cooper, III
Misty D. Roundtree
Daniel J. Schmitt
Jody K. Rogish
Tyrone E. Nelson

Nay

On motion of Mr. Rogish, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and by unanimous vote, the Board approved going out of the closed meeting at 5:23 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye
Roscoe D. Cooper, III
Misty D. Roundtree
Daniel J. Schmitt
Jody K. Rogish
Tyrone E. Nelson

Nay

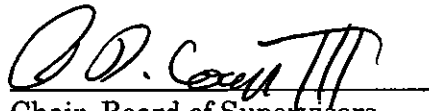
On motion of Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mrs. Roundtree, and by unanimous vote, the Board approved the attached Certificate of Closed Meeting.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye
Roscoe D. Cooper, III
Misty D. Roundtree
Daniel J. Schmitt
Jody K. Rogish
Tyrone E. Nelson

Nay

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.


Chair, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia