

Crozet Community Advisory Committee Notes

April 9, 2025, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Western Albemarle High School

Committee Members Present: Kostas Alibertis, Michael Monaco, Nathan Alderman, David Barrett-Johnson, and Erin Houlihan

Committee Members Absent: Andrew Bowers, Bruce Butala, Christen Bird, Shawn Brydge, Sarah Spears, and Grace Spalding

Liaisons Present: Supervisor Ann Mallek, Planning Commissioner Lonnie Murray, Staff Liaison Allison Wrabel

Liaisons Absent: None

Other Attendees: Approximately 15 other community members, 30 other County staff members

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 pm

Community Town Hall: Recommended FY26 Budget Presentation

Jeff Richardson, County Executive

Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive

- Wall presented on the Recommended FY26 Budget
- [Presentation PDF](#)
- [Video from 3/20/2025 event](#)

Question and Answer

1. Regarding fire safety: how many volunteers do you have compared to staff? How do you see that ratio changing?
 - a. Dan Eggleston, Fire Chief:
 - i. There are currently 350 volunteers and 220 staff members. Volunteers have gone down, but the volunteers we have are of great quality.
 - ii. We are meeting our demands to provide funding, equipment, and training to our staff and volunteers and are ahead of the curve in terms of numbers.
 - b. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors:
 - i. Transitions in leadership are challenging, but we have great leadership training.
2. I am a Mom and small business owner, and I am here to represent the Crozet Spray Park Project. We were hoping to use the old Field School area to implement the park. This park aligns with the strategic plan, so could we add a spray park in Crozet and is there funding for a feasibility study (10k)? What are your plans with the old Field School?
 - a. Bob Crickenberger, Director of Parks and Rec:

- i. In terms of the planning process, we generate ideas, look at needs (maintenance vs replacement), develop costs, and then submit the ideas. There are no current submissions for a spray park.
 - ii. Once the work is done and we know if the project is feasible, then we can move forward with evaluation.
 - b. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors:
 - i. A spray park idea is a park of the investigation. We have a lot of work to do to get the money for the feasibility study.
- 3. I am troubled by the revenue diversification statement. Its just a long word for a tax increase. I have seen UVA purchase lots of commercial properties. What have you done to explore how UVA can contribute to this diversification?
 - a. Jeff Richardson, County Executive
 - i. We meet with the University on a regular basis, and are always looking to collaborate. We have a joint emergency force with the City, the County, and UVA. We meet every 60 days with the Presidents office and city managers. There is ongoing work to link our systems to provide regional public transit, and we expect good commercial collaboration moving forward.
 - b. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors
 - i. Some counties have a smaller population but lots of businesses.
 - ii. Albemarle's goal is to develop more business contribution because we want to balance our revenue sources.
 - c. Emily Kilroy, Economic Development Director
 - i. We are always trying to ask ourselves for better options. The County's economic development office is still relatively young, but we are continuing to grow and focus on business attraction work. Our aim is to attract businesses to create jobs, so people can afford to live.
 - ii. There are not a lot of 25–45-year-olds in the County, due to the high cost of living, and we are paying attention to this and are wanting to foster growth and development opportunities.
 - iii. Research at UVA also generates a lot of IP, and there are a lot of opportunities regarding this.
- 4. Do we have a number on the expected revenue coming in on the new assessments?
 - a. Andy Bowman, assistant CFO of Department of Finance and Budget
 - i. Overall, at real estate, the value is \$29 million. The value of the 4c on the tax rate is \$4 million.
- 5. Can someone speak more about the education budget items? What is going into that? What are the new changes? Can you speak about the new school construction and how that fits into the broader plan?
 - a. Andy Bowman, assistant CFO of Department of Finance and Budget
 - i. The committee meets annually to see the demographic changes and see where the need is. We are currently trying to address elementary and high school needs.
 - b. Jeff Richardson, County Executive:
 - i. I reached out to the school admin about the article. The administration has grown based on needs. Changes are made over long processes.
 - ii. I would contact Albemarle County Schools, as they have their own Board and Superintendent.

- c. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors:
 - i. The school board develops a needs-based budget and local government approves it. No one steps over the line. We have a lot of unprecedented and unknown growth, which complicates planning.
- 6. What do you consider affordable housing?
 - a. Kaki Dimock, Chief Human Services Officer:
 - i. The definition is provided by the federal government, and it is housing that costs no more than 30% of your income. Most of us spend more than that, meaning we are housing burdened. Our capacity to stay below 30% is limited.
 - b. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors:
 - i. The costs have not been balanced with wages. It is different here than say Northern Virginia. The whole world has changed.
- 7. What money is going in to support the Climate Action Plan. We support the \$1 million to support de-carboning and energy efficiency.
 - a. Jeffrey Dumars, Director of Facilities and Environmental Services:
 - i. We have a robust program and \$200k unspecified funding. We have 2 dedicated staff members responsible for leveraging the entire budget.
 - ii. We are working on emission reduction and resiliency. ½ of all emissions come from buildings and the other ½ come from transportation.
 - iii. There are other elements of the County budget that support emission reductions, like affordable housing. There is also going to be the first installation of a solar array on a County Office, which will not cost us anything.
 - b. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors:
 - i. The County has supported LEAP. We are providing weathering services in affordable housing, which is allowing people to stay in place for longer. There are also the electric vehicle chargers at the County building.
- 8. Why is the cost of land use evaluation not in the budget? There is the optional program that we opt into and we pay for it. I was wondering about renting vs buying these services, but we can't compare it if there are no numbers available for us to analyze.
 - a. Andy Bowman, assistant CFO of Department of Finance and Budget:
 - i. We do not publish the value of tax referral due to technical reasons.
 - b. Jacob Sumner, Chief Financial Officer:
 - i. The deferred taxes (85.4) make up \$14.9 million for deferred taxes for the land use program.
- 9. On Monday, the Supervisors added another \$1 million for affordable housing. How does that help affordable housing exactly?
 - a. Ann Mallek, Board of Supervisors:
 - i. It serves as a multiplier. It leverages outside funding and down payments.
 - b. Kaki Dimock, Chief Human Services Officer:
 - i. The more money in the pool, the more diverse tools we can use to leverage the funds. Limited pools mean there are limited projects. This extra money means we can switch more levers and do more. It is a complex problem.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm