

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The Middlesex County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is a five (5) member board consisting of Middlesex County residents – one from each election district. Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals are appointed to five year terms by the Circuit Court of Middlesex County and may hold an unlimited number of terms. The Board of Supervisors typically makes recommendations for appointments to the BZA, but actual appointment to the position is by the sitting judge of the local Circuit Court. The BZA hears and considers requests for variances and exceptions to the Middlesex County Zoning Ordinance and appeals of the Zoning Administrator’s decisions.

Public notices of Board of Zoning Appeals public hearings are displayed as classified legal advertisements in the Southside Sentinel prior to the public hearing date. Board meetings are held on the 2nd floor of the Historic Courthouse in Saluda on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. For additional information, please call (804)758-3382.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Middlesex County Planning Commission is an eleven (11) member board with two members from each election district and one representative from the Board of Supervisors. Term lengths are for four years each and members may serve an unlimited number of terms. The Planning Commission reviews issues related to community growth and development, and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on zoning and subdivision policies and land development requests, including Rezoning and Conditional Use Permits. They also make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the County’s Capital Improvement Program and the Comprehensive Plan.

Public hearings are held by the Planning Commission to provide citizens with the opportunity to have input on land use recommendations that are forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for final action. Public notices of Planning Commission public hearings are displayed as classified legal advertisements in the Southside Sentinel prior to the public hearing date. The Commission meets at 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month in the Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Saluda.

WETLANDS BOARD

The Middlesex County Wetlands Board is a five (5) member board with one representative from each election district. Appointments have a term length of five (5) years and members may serve an unlimited number of terms. The Wetlands Board acts on requests for permits for the use, alteration or development of tidal wetlands, and enforces the regulations of the Middlesex County Wetlands Ordinance. The Board’s jurisdiction concerns non-vegetated tidal wetlands between mean low water and mean high water, and vegetated tidal wetlands from mean low water to an elevation one and one-half times the mean tide range. The Wetlands Board also has jurisdiction over coastal primary sand dunes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In Virginia, Economic Development Authorities (EDAs) are authorized under §15.2-4903 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended. Generally, EDAs provide for financing of economic development projects and activities, as they are allowed to provide for the issuance of bonds. In addition, EDAs have often expanded their roles to act as the economic development “office” for smaller localities. Effective January 1, 2013, the Middlesex Industrial Development Authority changed their name to the Middlesex Economic Development Authority. The EDA is a seven (7) member board with appointments not tied to election districts. Each term is four (4) years; members are eligible for an unlimited number of terms.

In Middlesex County, the EDA has financed a T-hangar project at Hummel Field, the new Courthouse building project and several school renovation projects for the county. In addition, the EDA has financed a number of tax-exempt projects outside of the county. The EDA earns fees for this activity, which are then used to assist with other economic activities within the county. Most recently, the Middlesex County EDA has provided small grants to organizations that provide products or services that encourage economic growth in the county.

SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

In Middlesex County the County Administrator serves as the Local Social Services Board. However, pursuant to §63.2-305 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended a Local Advisory Board has been appointed, consisting of five members (one from each election district). Each member serves a term of four years, and shall be eligible for reappointment for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The powers and duties of the advisory board shall be the following: to interest itself in all matters pertaining to the public assistance and social services needed by people of the county; to monitor the formulation and implementation of public assistance and social services programs by the local department; to meet with the official constituting the local board (in this case, the County Administrator) at least four times a year for the purpose of making recommendations on policy matters concerning the local department; to make an annual report to the governing body concurrent with the budget presentation of the local department, concerning the administration of the public assistance and social services programs; and to submit to the governing body or bodies, from time to time, other reports that the advisory board deems appropriate.

AIRPORT COMMITTEE

The Middlesex County Airport Committee is an eleven (11) member committee with one representative from each election district, at-large members and a representative from the Board of Supervisors. Appointments have a term length of four (4) years and members may serve an unlimited number of terms. This committee was established to advise the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors on all matters arising from the Board's responsibilities as owner of a public airport. Such matters include airport operations, safety, maintenance, budgeting, and planning. The airport committee may also undertake the supervision or carrying out of tasks necessary to keep the airport in safe and operational condition.