

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE
LOUISA, VIRGINIA
June 1, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Bernie Hill, Mary Johnson, Garth Wermter, Mark Lutner, Brian Sullivan, and Steve Duren

Absent: Melvin Burruss and Fitzgerald Barnes, Patrick Henry District Supervisor

Others Present: Christy Monolo, Assistant County Attorney; Stephanie Koren, Mineral District Supervisor, and Bob Hardy

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hardy called the June 1, 2016 regular meeting of the Broadband Authority (BBA) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hardy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Hardy requested an addition to the agenda, discussion about the school's E-rate fiber project which has been made public, to be placed under "Unfinished Business". On the motion of Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Johnson, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to modify the June 1, 2016, agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 4, 2016

On the motion of Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Wermter, which carried by a vote 6-0, the Authority approved the May 4, 2016, minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Mr. Hardy asked that someone propose a nomination for the Chair position.
Mr. Hill nominated Mr. Wermter for the Chairman position.
Mr. Wermter nominated Mr. Burruss for the position of Chairman.

Mr. Wermter stated that he would be willing to serve as Chairman. Mr. Hardy mentioned that Mr. Burruss was willing to serve but was more than happy to see someone else serve as well.

Mr. Hardy closed the nominations, and by voice vote, Mr. Burruss received one vote as Chairman.

By voice vote, Mr. Wermter received five votes in favor of him becoming Chairman. By voice vote, Mr. Wermter became the Chairman by a vote of 5-1.

In the nominations for Vice- Chairman, Mr. Lutner nominated Mr. Hill. There were no other nominations. By voice vote, Mr. Hill was nominated as Vice Chairman by a vote of 5-0-1.

In the nominations for Treasurer, Ms. Johnson nominated Mr. Sullivan. There were no other nominations. By voice vote, Mr. Sullivan was nominated as Treasurer by a vote of 5-0-1.

In the nominations for Secretary, Mr. Sullivan nominated Mr. Hardy. There were no other nominations. By voice vote, Mr. Hardy was nominated as Secretary by a vote of 6-0.

There were no further elections.

Resolution- To Encourage the Board of Supervisors to Evaluate Broadband Infrastructure as Part of Future Development Efforts

It was stated that this conveys the intent of the Authority and is not meant to be binding in any way. Ms. Johnson stated that she fully supported the resolution as it would provide opportunity for discussion between county staff, developers, and consultants.

On the motion of Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority approved the resolution.

Requesting Authorization to Proceed with Recommended Firm through RFP for “Construction of Wireless Network Infrastructure and Ongoing Network Operations”

Mr. Hill stated that all information is highly confidential until the contract is signed. Mr. Wermter, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Hill completed their scoring of the three (3) proposals and asked for the Authority’s approval to move forward with two (2) of those firms. Legally however, they could not list any firms by name.

Mr. Hill stated that a worksession for June 15, 2016, should be scheduled in order to discuss the action item in more detail. Ms. Johnson asked if the worksession would require closed session. Mr. Hill stated that it would. It was stated that the worksession would take place at 7 p.m.

There were no further questions. It was proposed that negotiations be opened with the top two candidates who would be authorized. On the motion of Mr. Sullivan, which was seconded by Ms. Johnson, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to proceed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion – Update on the RFP for LCPS

Mr. Hardy updated the Authority on what was presented to the Louisa County School Board by the IT Department. The Schools submitted an RFP to collect offers and proposals to submit for E-rate funding. Five proposals offered to build fiber and charge all the money, some did it with a monthly billing on a ten- year contact. The lowest was \$1.3 million and the highest was close to \$9 million. Verizon offered to serve the five circuits at ten times the speed it is currently, at half the price. Mr. Hardy stated that the payback would be about 15- 16 years. He stated that the School Board has learned what questions to ask in regards to fiber. He stated that the plan is not to apply for any more funding and to start the process again in October 2016 in order to apply for funding for the next year. Verizon already has the lines in the ground. The School Board stated that it is not fiscally responsible right now, but it is a postponed option that would still be considered.

It was asked if funding was the main concern. Mr. Hardy stated that the length of years in payback was what was disconcerting in addition to the cost for construction and maintenance.

A question was raised as to whether the new technology to the fiber was changing the fiber or not. Mr. Hardy said he did not have an answer to that.

A comment was made that in the report, it did not look like the decision was made on anything other than cost rather than quality. Mr. Hardy stated that it would have been the decision to choose one of the first five options. When asked about the E-rate funding, they would not get an answer. Mr. Hardy stated that it was dictated by the price, but it was because it had to be submitted to someone else.

There were no further questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A citizen inquired about the RFP and what it was about. Mr. Wermter stated that the RFP was issued recently to solicit proposals for planning of the construction of the Broadband network. The Authority proposed to the Louisa County Board of Supervisors four or five months ago for the start of phase one for the construction of ten towers in order to have someone help guide the Authority through that process.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was none

WEBSITE UPDATES

Mr. Hardy stated that the RFP was still listed on the County website.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mr. Hardy asked whether the Authority wanted to have a closed session on June 15, 2016. Mr. Wermter stated that everyone was on the same page.

NEXT MEETING

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adjourn the June 1, 2016, regular meeting at approximately 7:25 p.m.

BY ORDER OF:

GARTH WERMTER, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY