

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE
LOUISA, VIRGINIA
June 5, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Mary Johnson, Melvin Burruss, Ed Jarvis, Paul Bradbury, Fitzgerald Barnes, Jeffrey Zivick, Timothy Layne, Jim Ogg

Absent: Duane Adams, Bernie Hill

Others Present: Bob Hardy, Louisa County Information Technology Director, Angela Daniels, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Johnson called the June 5, 2019, regular meeting of the Broadband Authority (BBA) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Jarvis, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to approve the June 5, 2019 agenda, as amended.

June Officer Election

Ms. Johnson stated Mr. Jarvis has agreed to serve as Chairman and Mr. Bradbury has agreed to serve as Vice Chairman if nominated. There were no other nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

On the motion of Mr. Zivick, seconded by Mr. Layne, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to appointment Mr. Jarvis as Chairman and Mr. Bradbury as Vice Chairman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Zivick, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to approve the May 1, 2019, regular meeting minutes, as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion- SCS Broadband Discussion

Mr. Stewart addressed the Authority stating the tower at Moss-Nuckols is up and running and 20 homes are connected at this time. Mr. Stewart said June 10th – 20th will be the start of getting the Jouett Tower ready, and June 20th – 30th is the scheduled time for the High School Tower. Mr. Stewart asked the Authority if Portertown EMS Tower is erected with no equipment on the tower.

Mr. Hardy said the towers are ready for installation of equipment. Mr. Hardy also stated the CUP for Holly Grove was approved and next in line for approval is the site plan prepared by Wide Open Networks.

Ms. Johnson suggested a ribbon cutting ceremony to let citizens know that the fast track towers are up and running.

The Authority unanimously agreed the ribbon cutting ceremony would be a good way to inform citizens of the towers.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority and Mr. Stewart regarding the broadband towers.

Discussion - Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Grant

Mr. Hardy said Louisa County is one of twelve counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia selected to receive grant funding through the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) in the amount of \$233,905. Louisa County and its private partner, SCS Broadband, will use these funds towards expanding broadband service in the County. Mr. Hardy explained over \$4.9 million in grant money through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) for 11 projects within 12 counties throughout Virginia has been awarded.

Mr. Jarvis requested a status update on the June 30th deadline for the Schools.

Mr. Hardy stated they are on track to be completed by June 30th.

Mr. Burruss asked about the purpose of the VATI grant and where the funds will be used.

Mr. Hardy stated how the County had applied for two grants through the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative, but only one grant was awarded. He explained the County was denied the other grant since that particular area is already being served by another provider, Comcast. Mr. Hardy said the grant is to provide funding for SCS to install service equipment on two of their private towers along with the Jouett Tower.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion – LCHS, Jouett Elementary School, and Moss-Nuckols Elementary School Tower Construction

Dr. Cohill stated the fast track towers are completed and up and running.

Discussion -Trevilians Tower and Holly Grove Tower

Dr. Cohill stated the Holly Grove CUP was approved and they are waiting for final engineering drawings. Dr. Cohill said once he receives the drawings he will submit the site plan.

Ms. Johnson asked Dr. Cohill why the drawings are necessary for the site plan.

Dr. Cohill stated they are doing a combination of the site plan and building permit and once the building permit is approved construction can start immediately.

Dr. Cohill said the Trevilians Tower is almost complete. He said the propane tanks are waiting to be installed once the propane is installed they can complete the generator testing.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Trevilians Tower.

Discussion -Additional Location-Twin Oaks area and Buckner- Bumpass area

Mr. Hardy stated they are waiting to hear back from Verizon Wireless about the installation of the tower at Buckner-Bumpass Park. He explained the original plan for the Twin Oaks location was to build a broadband tower but instead they have entered into negotiation with NCT to build the tower on Smith Family Road. He stated the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution authorizing the Authority to finalize discussion with NCT to have a site lease agreement.

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Zivick, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to send Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Ogg, and Mr. Hardy to represent the Louisa County Broadband Authority and meet with NCT and negotiate the contract, with full board authority to act as they see fit.

Discussion – Systems Operations (Towers, Backhaul, and Fiber)

Mr. Hardy said things have remained the same in past several months. Mr. Hardy stated they do not have fiber going to the schools, but he is currently in the process of getting fiber to some of the schools.

Discussion – Co-location of Louisa County EMS Radio Towers

Mr. Hardy stated early next week he will be able to give SCS the go ahead to install the radio equipment.

TREASURER’S REPORT /APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Hardy referenced his treasures report handout and gave a brief summary of the report. Mr. Hardy stated Mountain Valley point to point became an issue with their contract when a quote was provided to do eleven links. He explained a breakdown within each tower was not provided. Mr. Hardy stated in lieu of their of their mistake in their calculation, he recommends to the Authority paying Mountain Valley out of their unit cost for additional climbs as they occur.

Discussion ensued regarding the second climb.

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Burruss, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to approve the two extra climbs only with no assurances that the Authority will agree to any additional funding.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the Treasurer's report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Jarvis gave a brief discussion on how future meetings will run and how information will be relayed to the members of the Authority.

DIRECTOR AND LIAISON REPORTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Layne, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Board voted to adjourn the June 5, 2019, regular meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.