

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY  
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE  
LOUISA, VIRGINIA  
July 17, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

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**Present:** Mary Johnson, Melvin Burruss, Ed Jarvis, Paul Bradbury, Timothy Layne, Jim Ogg, Bernie Hill, Duane Adams

**Absent:** Fitzgerald Barnes (late), Jeffrey Zivick

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Jarvis called the July 17, 2019, regular meeting of the Broadband Authority (BBA) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Jarvis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On the motion of Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Johnson, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to approve the July 17, 2019 agenda, as amended.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Layne, which carried by a vote of 5-0-1 with Mr. Hill abstaining. The Authority voted to approve the June 5, 2019, regular meeting minutes as amended, with changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Brad Duncan, Louisa District-** stated he would like to install fiber line to his house create a small a micro population and asked for the Authority's thoughts on the micro population.

Mr. Hardy stated that the fiber is very expensive, and suggested other options on how Mr. Duncan can receive internet.

**Bobby Dias, Mineral District-** voiced his concern with getting internet service provided to his home.

Mr. Hardy noted that a couple of towers were going to be installed near and around the lake area that will be of service to Mr. Dias.

Mr. Barnes and Mr. Adams expressed how pleased they are to see a discussion on the agenda regarding the establishment of a committee to contact Internet Service Providers (ISPs) for fiber leasing options.

Mr. Barnes said he has received concerns from citizens regarding inadequate service because of the terrain and would like to know what other options are out there.

Mr. Hardy stated SCS now has LTE licenses on the towers, and in the next couple of months LTE will be turned on and all the towers should provide better coverage and faster speeds.

Discussion ensued regarding broadband internet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion- Lease Arrangements with SCS Broadband for Chopping Tower**

Mr. Hardy stated the original plan was to put two big circles of backhaul radios on the County's tower, but unfortunately it was not sufficient. Mr. Hardy said SCS has offered for their tower on Chopping Road to be the center hub and agreed to install equipment on the tower as soon as possible. Mr. Hardy made note of a couple of options for the lease agreement.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the lease arrangements.

### **Appointing Committee to contact ISP's to lease County fiber**

Mr. Jarvis stated Mr. Hardy and himself have been working on the verbiage so those on the Committee to contact ISP providers have the approved language. Mr. Jarvis said that he, along with Mr. Hardy and Mr. Ogg have agreed to be on the Committee.

Mr. Hardy stated he will contact VDOT and get information on who has put fiber in the County.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the Committee and ISPs.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Discussion -Trevilians Tower and Holly Grove Tower**

Mr. Boswell stated the Trevilians Tower is operational, the fence is complete and the only remaining item is the generator commissioning which is scheduled for this Friday. He said the final engineering drawings from Rhone have been received and there has been discussion between SCS and Rhone on the equipment loading which increased the cost of the tower significantly. Mr. Boswell said they were able to get a quote from Mountain Valley for the build of this tower with the drawings from Rhone, including the increase. Mr. Boswell stated there was a problem discovered with the towers located between LCHS and Chopping Rd. He said it was

unknown to him until the switch was attached, and the data was passing through the radios but not passing through the County switch to the other link. Mr. Boswell made a recommendation to Mr. Hardy for quotes on third party cables, and suggested sending back Aviat's cables that have not been installed.

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

Mr. Hardy referenced to one of the handouts he provided the Authority regarding fiber. Mr. Hardy said the connection from Chopping Rd. to LCHS and Jouett, and from Chopping Rd. to Trevilians and Moss Nuckols are all functional and working. Mr. Hardy stated SCS is not connected to any of the switches yet and there is not a switch at Trevilians. Once the switches are connected, internet can be provided at those four sites. Mr. Hardy stated the County has already signed an agreement with NCT to install a tower in the Yanceyville area. Mr. Hardy said Verizon is going to put a tower of their own in the Buckner-Bumpass area so the Authority has chosen not to put one in area due to funding.

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

Mr. Hardy stated the schools have covered a lot of the systems operations. Mr. Hardy said they will be trained by Wide Open as to what is going on with the towers.

**Discussion – Co-location of Louisa County EMS Radio Towers**

Mr. Hardy said the towers are constructed and the buildings are ready. Mr. Hardy stated he is unsure if the generators have been tested. He said to his knowledge, the EMS radios have not been put on the towers but they are ready for equipment.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the EMS Radio Towers.

**TREASURER’S REPORT /APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

Mr. Hardy provided a brief overview of the Treasure’s Report and approval of bills. Mr. Hardy asked the Authority to approve the second invoice payment to Wide Open Networks in the amount of \$31, 900.Mr. Hardy said Trevilians still has \$23,000 for Mountain Valley to bill for their project.

Further discussion ensued regarding Mr. Hardy’s report on bills.

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to direct the Treasurer to approve the second invoice to Wide Open Networks in the amount of \$31,900 and approve the submission of a purchase order request for \$135,861 for Holly Grove.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Jarvis stated he feels there needs to be more structure put into this organization as the Authority is finishing up the towers and fiber. Mr. Jarvis said this would be a great project for the High School where high schoolers can climb the towers and to get some training.

Mr. Hardy said SCS has spoken with the schools and is unsure if this has been implemented but SCS has a program to get high school students involved in operational networks. Mr. Hardy stated in the past there was discussion regarding hiring a general manager and at the time there was not enough work to hire one. Mr. Hardy recommended with approval from the Board to have the County's IT Department and the School's IT Department manage this project.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding a general manager.

## **DIRECTOR AND LIAISON REPORTS**

None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

None

## **CLOSED SESSION**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Layne, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to adjourn the July 17, 2019, regular meeting at approximately 8:51 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

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