

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE
LOUISA, VIRGINIA
September 4, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: Duane Adams, Timothy Layne

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jarvis called the September 4, 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 Mr. Zivick, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve the September 4, 2019 agenda, as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Zivick, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve the August 7, 2019, regular meeting minutes as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jack Manzari, Mineral District, stated he sent the Authority an email expressing his concerns regarding FTTH and how he felt Rappahannock was not going far nor fast enough with internet to Mr. Farmer. Mr. Manzari mentioned he had a chance to speak at the annual meeting and expressed his concerns on how he felt they were on the wrong track and stated he was promised a copy of the study from Mr. Farmer. Mr. Manzari said he would like the support of the Authority in asking for data information regarding a fiber study with Rappahannock.

Mr. Jarvis suggested the Authority draft a letter requesting the report.

Mr. Hardy stated he would follow up with Mr. Mark Seay with Rappahannock Electric via email or letter.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Rappahannock's report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hardy stated the County did cooperate and co-offer the application for a VATI grant. Mr. Hardy said they were going to do a three-way with NCT to build a tower on Yanceyville. Mr. Hardy stated the total cost of the project without NCT is a \$160,000. Mr. Hardy said they will have to match the funds up to 25%, and the Board has already committed to the prepaid lease for NCT to build this tower. Mr. Hardy said this will be their matching portion which is 38% instead of 25%. Mr. Hardy stated they made application for LCHS and Buckner Bumpass Park. He explained LCHS was stricken because of service provided by Comcast through that area, and Buckner Bumpass Park was stricken because they are no longer building a tower there.

Mr. Hill asked if the High School and Buckner Bumpass Park were both declined.

Mr. Hardy stated the High School was declined but Buckner Bumpass Park was not.

Mr. Barnes stated he is trying to have the same tax authority they give to cities and towns to put money towards Broadband projects. Mr. Barnes suggested raising taxes on cigarettes and alcohol to help pay for an infrastructure for Broadband.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion -Trevilians Tower and Holly Grove Tower

Mr. Boswell said the safety climb cable needs to be attached to the base of the tower and the fencing still needs to be grounded. He stated the generator commissioning is complete. Mr. Boswell stated they will be at Trevilians next week to install a radio pointing to Porter Town at which time MVTs will fix the final punch list items. Mr. Boswell stated he still has an invoice from Mountain Valley and will process this invoice once the final items are complete. Mr. Boswell said on the Holly Grove Tower they have received approval on all agencies including VDOT, and there are comments from the building department which need to be incorporated into the site plan. He said the tower for Holly Grove is tentatively scheduled for the first week in November, and believes they will be able to apply for the building permit once they get the site plan and check list approved.

Mr. Burruss asked if there was an estimate on how many customers are signed up with SCS.

Mr. Boswell stated he does not interface with SCS in that regard.

Mr. Hardy said he received an update from Mr. Stewart regarding number of customers. He said Moss Nuckols has 62 customers, which includes new subscribers. Jouett and Trevilians are getting their final field test today with marketing releasing occurring tomorrow. Mr. Hardy said fiber has been completed to all the elementary schools and back to the County Building and to the High School. He said the High School is connected to the County Building but has yet to be configured with patch cables to get to the High School.

Mr. Zivick recommended they request Mr. Stewart provide a monthly status report on the rates, number of customers, what has been completed and what still needs to be completed, etc. and posting it onto the website for citizens.

Mr. Hardy stated this is in contract for Mr. Stewart to provide this information.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding Mr. Boswell's status report and how service is being provided.

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

Mr. Hardy stated there has not been anything done further with the additional locations at Twin Oaks and Buckner-Bumpass Park. Mr. Hardy said he has tried to get in touch with Verizon, but unfortunately they are unable to get more information until more progress has been made.

Mr. Jarvis said he was surprised that the Board of Supervisors in every County in the Commonwealth of Virginia has not expressed their frustration with how dissatisfied they are that there is no say as an entity as to why certain companies get to put a tower without having a discussion first.

Mr. Hardy mentioned the Board added this to their Legislative Agenda to be discussed. Mr. Hardy said regarding the co-location, they will be installing equipment on the tower starting next week. Mr. Hardy stated he will be looking at the EMS Towers to see the space inside of the towers.

Ms. Johnson said regarding the Twin Oaks and Buckner Bumpass Park Tower, is it up to the Board of Supervisors to approve or deny an application if it is closer than a mile.

Mr. Hardy said it would cost a \$130,000 to build a tower.

Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of the Authority putting up the tower instead of Verizon.

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

Discussed under Additional Location-Twin Oaks area and Buckner- Bumpass area

Discussion – Co-location of Louisa County EMS Radio Towers

Discussed under Additional Location-Twin Oaks area and Buckner- Bumpass area

TREASURER'S REPORT /APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Mr. Hardy said his report has not changed much since last month. He said they did approve the payment to Wide Open Networks for their two out of three invoices for the fast track towers.

Ms. Johnson asked if they are still behind \$30,000.

Mr. Hardy said that could change if they receive the VATI grant, which is a \$50,000 grant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Jack Manzari, Mineral District, thanked the Authority for allowing him to speak and stated it has been interesting in terms of learning where they are, the mission statement, and the organizational care. Mr. Manzari stated he has invited Mr. Christopher Ali, who attended Ms. Spanberger's summit, to be the guest at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Meeting on January 7, 2020, and would like to extend the invitation to the Authority to attend.

Mr. Jarvis stated there were three members of the Authority who attended Ms. Spanberger's summit. Mr. Jarvis commented on the "Rural Area Grant" and how the Authority could not apply due to qualification requirements.

CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hill, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to adjourn the September 4, 2019, regular meeting at approximately 8:32p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.