

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY  
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE  
LOUISA, VIRGINIA  
January 8, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Absent:** Duane Adams

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Jarvis called the January 8, 2020, regular meeting of the Broadband Authority (BBA) Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Layne, which carried by a vote of 4-0, the Authority voted to approve the January 8, 2020 agenda, as amended, with the following changes:

- Add Discussion - Stage Two of Broadband Authority under New Business
- Add Discussion – SCS Questions – Contract under Unfinished Business

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On the motion of Mr. Bradbury, seconded by Mr. Layne, which carried by a vote of 4-0, the Authority voted to approve the September 4<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and November 6, 2019, regular meeting minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion - Stage Two of Broadband Authority**

Mr. Jarvis stated the Authority has been trying to decide, internally, what the next steps are for Authority, since the charter laid out a plan and we are almost to the end of the plan. Mr. Jarvis asked the Authority if they would like to disband or continue. Mr. Jarvis asked the Authority for permission for a questionnaire of no more than seven questions, be sent out in the tax mailings or as part of the census. The questions will consist of do you have broadband, and if so, what type

of broadband. Mr. Jarvis would like to be able to correlate the data to get a better sense of where it is. The data would give a good statistical and this information could be relayed to the County.

Mr. Kennedy said all of the relevant carrier's information is mostly public information. They want people to know they can have access and most have google maps that publish the information.

Mr. Hardy said we had some access to the information and there is a service you can pay for, that shows where some of the fiber is located.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding data and the questionnaire survey.

Mr. Barnes said when the Authority first began the Board allocated a million dollars for the Authority to get started. Mr. Barnes stated he has seen growth, but citizens are becoming more frustrated and this Authority need to make it clear to the Board we need either "A" or "B" to make this work.

Mr. Burruss stated we have a Comprehensive Plan for not only wireless but for cable also. Mr. Burruss said we did not do the cable because the school district did not receive their grant. Mr. Burruss recommended reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and updating it to include cable.

Ms. Johnson said it comes down to cost, and the challenge is what resources are we able to share the cost with.

Discussion ensued regarding putting together a financial plan to present to the Board of Supervisors.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Discussion- Holly Grove Tower**

Mr. Hardy stated he received an email from Mr. Boswell stating they are still waiting for a few of the generators to be checked. Mr. Boswell has been looking at the cost of cellular connections to generator status, the generator would call the cell company if they lost power and they have battery to make that call. Mr. Hardy stated we have a program in place called "the dude", the dude checks with an IP connection to all the switches and radios on our whole network. Mr. Hardy said if it can't get to a switch or radio, we get an e-mail.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the generators and what notifications are received.

Mr. Hardy said they have done some chipping and clearing at the Holly Grove Tower to get back to the site, and to strengthen the road to get back to the tower. Mr. Hardy said he is hopeful the foundation will be completed soon, weather permitting.

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

Mr. Hardy stated the radios towers are connected by the backhaul radios. Mr. Hardy said SCS has been provided with the information of what elevation to put their equipment up. Mr. Hardy stated the report from SCS is confidential and he is unable to provide more information.

### **Discussion- SCS Questions/ Contract**

Mr. Ogg referenced his handout with the questions and concerns regarding SCS. Mr. Ogg stated he would like to ask about cost, past projections, and studies that have been done. (Ex: the Comprehensive Plan) Mr. Ogg said he is beginning to think providing comprehensive internet services to the County isn't just the answer. Mr. Ogg stated we should be enhancing the companies that are providing service and possibly be giving them an incentive.

Ms. Johnson stated we have provided incentives.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Mr. Ogg's questions and concerns.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT /APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

Mr. Hardy stated there is a bill needed for approval for three additional climbs. Mr. Hardy said the Authority needs to decide if you are going pay for another three climbs or if we are going to Aviat to see if they will cover the cost.

Ms. Johnson asked if we are a hundred and one thousand dollars deficit.

Mr. Hardy said if we complete all things remaining, yes we will be. Mr. Hardy stated there were additional costs that were not expected and all the towers came in more than what they were planned for.

Mr. Barnes suggested asking a representative from SCS to come to the next closed session.

Mr. Hardy stated he will arrange for Mr. Stewart to attend.

Mr. Bradbury asked the current construction work we have going on now, how much of it can be stopped.

Mr. Hardy said we do not have to build the Yanceyville Tower.

Mr. Barnes suggested to pause the unfunded projects and go to the Board and ask for an additional appropriation.

Discussion ensued regarding pausing any further action on the Yanceyville Tower.

On the motion of Mr. Layne, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0 ,the Authority voted to pause any further action on the Yanceyville Tower until approaching the Board of Supervisors with a presentation in February.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A citizen addressed the Authority from a provider point of view, stating if he is a wireless provider in the County and the County was going to come behind him and put in fiber, that's a big uncertainty for him as a provider and problematic for his investment. The citizen continued to voice his concern regarding being a wireless provider and the way the County is operating.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding providers, fiber, cable, and the cost associated with providing and running fiber.

**CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

None.

**DIRECTOR AND LIAISON REPORTS**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**CLOSED SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Mr. Bradbury, seconded by Mr. Burruss, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Board voted to adjourn the January 8, 2020, regular meeting at approximately 9:09p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.