

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY  
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE  
LOUISA, VIRGINIA  
January 15, 2020 6:30 P.M.**

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**Present:** Ed Jarvis, Paul Bradbury, Timothy Layne, Jim Ogg, Mary Johnson, Melvin Burruss, Rachel Trombetta, 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 15, 2020, regular meeting of the Broadband Authority (BBA) Board of Directors to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Jarvis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Rachel Trombetta lives in Spring Creek for about 5 years, she has a lifelong history with IT, 11 years in Europe working with military control system, 13 years at General Electric and is her to see what she can do to help.

Went around the room with introductions.

**DISCUSSION- Questionnaire/ Survey**

This is a workshop, we were chartered by the Board of Supervisors initially to do work such as put up towers and build infrastructure, and we are nearing the end of that charter. We need to decide what we are going to do next, we don't want to be the provider business. We've worked up a questionnaire we are trying to get out to every citizen in the county, about 5-6 questions to determine what percentage of internet is in the county and hope to package the information and send it to county officials to show the broadband capability. That of course depends on the response received from the questionnaire.

Mr. Bradbury said his goal tonight is to come up with a plan of what to do moving forward, not a plan of what the recommendation would be. The recommendation would be one of the items in the plan and from there work on other things in the next session.

Mr. Burruss asked if he got the documents from Ms. Johnson, which was an overview.

Mr. Bradbury said he did but doesn't think we want to go into that tonight.

Questions and comments were discussed by the Authority regarding the documents Ms. Johnson had sent out.

Ms. Johnson feels everyone is aware of what the initial plan was, which was to integrate the fiber with the wireless. We know where we are today and we know we have the wireless backbone between the schools that the county has run, we know where our towers are. She doesn't think it's necessary to go back and rehash that, she feels we need to establish firmly what we have operational right now and moving forward what we need to do next.

Mr. Bradbury listed items for discussion on how to move forward:

- Create a story about where we are, where we've been and where we want to go.
- Budget issues we need to discuss and bring to the Board.
- Creating a plan and objectives and a recommendation to the Board.
- Need a mission statement, charter and by-laws, and articles of incorporation, review and update as a group.
- Hiring a full time director.
- Commutation plans and how we communicate to the public.
- The survey for the citizens.

Mr. Bradbury asked if anyone has anything to add to the list.

Mr. Ogg said this list needs to be prioritized, such as the survey, which is important to get out so we can get the data to use.

Further discussion ensued on prioritizing the list which included information on funding, private companies and working with them, Spring Creek having both Dominion and CVEC.

Mr. Barnes stated he felt the Authority was under funded and applauded the Authority for doing a good job with the funds they were allocated.

Mr. Jarvis said he thinks there are certain supervisors who are withholding information from this group and that's counterproductive. Mr. Jarvis said he shouldn't hear there is a meeting about the Broadband Authority and not be made aware of it.

Mr. Barnes stated he is hearing from more frustrated citizen and asked for ways to solve these issues. Mr. Barnes suggested moving forward with the Authority's recommendations.

Mr. Burruss said he feels one of the weakness this Authority has is not having the history of the Authority. Mr. Burruss suggested at the next meeting to have an overview of the history and plan for the future. Mr. Burruss stated he strongly feels a full-time director is needed to conduct future plans.

Questions and comments were addressed regarding the best and most cost efficient way to get the survey out.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Ms. Trombetta, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to adjourn the February 5, 2020, regular meeting at approximately 9:42 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.