

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE
LOUISA, VIRGINIA
March 4, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Ed Jarvis, Paul Bradbury, Timothy Layne, Jim Ogg, Rachel Trombetta, Melvin Burruss, Fitzgerald Barnes

Absent: Fitzgerald Barnes, Mary Johnson, Duane Adams

Others Present: Bob Hardy, Louisa County Information Technology Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jarvis called the March 4, 2020, 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. Bradbury, seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve the February 5, 2020 agenda, as amended, with the following changes:

- Add Discussion – Work session under Unfinished Business

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Burruss, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve the January 8, 2020, regular meeting minutes.

On the motion of Ms. Trombetta, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve the January 15, 2020, work session meeting minutes, as amended.

On the motion of Mr. Bradbury, seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 4-0 with Mr. Burruss abstaining, the Authority voted to approve the February 5, 2020, regular meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A citizen addressed the Authority requesting an update on the status report on the Yanceyville Tower.

Mr. Hardy stated NCT is building the Yanceyville Tower and are putting a cell tower up on Smith Family Road. NCT has gotten a CUP and have submitted their site plan, once this is complete the County will put their backhaul on and SCS will be an internet service provider.

The citizen said he attended the January meeting and this is the exact same update he received then.

Mr. Hardy stated they are waiting on NCT to spend the funds to build a tower there.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the Yanceyville Tower.

NEW BUSINESS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion - Holly Grove Tower

Mr. Hardy referred to the status report from Mr. Boswell. He explained the foundation has been poured for the Holly Grove Tower, and for the generator and propane pad. He said they are currently working on the site underneath the tower which needs to be completed before the crane can be brought in and the tower can be constructed. Mr. Hardy stated there still is no power to the site, and there will need to be an approval on getting the power to the site.

Discussion – Co-location of Louisa County EMS Radio Towers

Mr. Hardy said the towers are working and currently being connected by the backhaul radios, but SCS nor are the County operating on those towers. Mr. Hardy stated the EMS project is almost complete they are just waiting on a coverage status update. Mr. Hardy stated Mr. Layne's recommendation to place the Yanceyville Tower on hold until the Board approves more money in the budget.

Mr. Layne asked with placing the Yanceyville Tower on hold, are they in any danger or losing anything.

Mr. Hardy said there is a signed colocation lease agreement that will need to be reviewed.

Work Session Date

Mr. Jarvis suggested the Authority have a worksession on March 18th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss phase two of the broadband project.

On the motion of Ms. Trombetta, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to have a worksession on March 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer’s Report/ Approval of the Bills

Mr. Hardy stated they were able to save \$10,000 due to services provided by Mountain Valley. Mr. Hardy went over his spreadsheet regarding remaining bills to be paid to Wide Open Network. Mr. Hardy stated he is requesting approval for one of the three alternatives for electric at the Holly Grove tower. Mr. Hardy noted with all of the bills paid, they have a remaining budget of \$62k-\$72k. Mr. Hardy stated they have \$150,000 for the Yanceyville Tower which includes the radios and the prepaid lease.

On the motion of Mr. Bradbury, seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve option “c” to have Rappahannock Electric supply power to the Gammon Town Tower.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the presentation that was presented to the Board at their March 2, 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A citizen complimented the Authority on their presentations and suggested they provide the number of citizens impacted by the project so they can get Internet Service Provider (ISP) behind them.

Mr. Hardy stated we have sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to try and get an ISP. Mr. Hardy stated ISP are spending more money on fiber and poles in their current areas rather than competing with other ISPs.

Questions and comments were addressed regarding the citizen’s concerns and ISP questions.

CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Bradbury, seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to adjourn the March 4, 2020, regular meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.