

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE
LOUISA, VIRGINIA
September 2, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Ed Jarvis, Paul Bradbury, Melvin Burruss, Timothy Layne, Rachel Trombetta, Mary Johnson, Fitzgerald Barnes, Duane Adams

Absent: Jim Ogg

Others Present: Bob Hardy, Louisa County Information Technology Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jarvis called the September 2 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 Ms. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to approve the September 2, 2020 agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Bradbury, seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to approve the July 1, 2020, special meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – LCBBA Future

Mr. Adams said regarding the future of the Broadband Authority the Board is under the impression the Authority will continue the tower projects until completion. Once the towers are completed the Broad feels the Broadband should stay in existents incase further assistance is needed in the future. Mr. Adams said it is his opinion the Authority can play an educational roll in the process of grant funding and pass through funding, as the County tries to install fiber throughout the whole County.

Mr. Barnes stated the students going back to school were a big wake-up call in connectivity and exposing issues with Broadband. Mr. Barnes commended the Authority on their efforts towards this project and all their hard work. Mr. Barnes said rolls in the Authority will have to change and suggested the Authority really push for getting fiber connected in the whole County.

SCS/Riverstreet Merger

Mr. Hardy stated Riverstreet let a few Counties know that they would be merging with SCS, and this merge should be complete by the end of Summer 2020. Mr. Hardy said SCS is putting work into towers with upgrades and equipment that was on backorder due to COVID-19.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion – Update Gammontown / Holly Grove Tower

Mr. Hardy said the paperwork regarding Mr. McCrey's easements has been submitted to Rappahannock. Mr. Hardy stated the tower is up and the radios between Holly Grove and Jouett working and are ready to go. Mr. Hardy mentioned the fencing is installed and we are just waiting for the power to be connected.

Discussion – LCBBA Survey Results

Mr. Jarvis said surveys have been reviewed and the majority of the data collected from citizens show most citizens are happy with their internet.

Mr. Hardy gave a brief presentation regarding the survey results. Mr. Hardy said we wanted to keep the surveys simple, who had internet, what type of internet, and if no internet what was the reason behind not having it.

Mr. Adams stated we need to be careful not to inflate people's expectations, and strongly suggested citizens come to Board and Broadband meetings to get more public dialogue going in regards to getting fiber throughout the County sooner.

Ms. Johnson said she feels that the Authority can develop and initiate a campaign to get citizens who need fiber services involved.

Questions and comments were addressed regarding the survey results and how to get citizens involved more with the fiber projects.

Treasurer's Report/ Approval of the Bills

Mr. Hardy stated Mountain Valley has submitted a few bills but before we are able to approve the Mr. Boswell is waiting for few finishing updates. Once the Holly Grove Tower is finished it will leave a remaining \$62k, and with that the Board has agreed to sign a contract with NCT to pay for part of the maintenance on the Yanceyville Tower.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

None

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Mr. Layne seconded by Ms. Trombetta, which carried by a vote of 6-0, the Authority voted to adjourn the September 2, 2020, special meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.