

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on February 21, 2018, at 5:04 p.m., in Room 241 of the County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

PRESENT: Mr. Bucky Walsh, Mr. Mike Culp, Ms. Liz Palmer, Mr. Rick Randolph and Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: Mr. Landon McDowell

Also Present: Mr. Andy Herrick, Mr. Richard DeLoria

Agenda Item No. 1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order.

Mr. Walsh established a quorum and called the meeting to order.

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Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Walsh **moved** to accept the agenda.

The agenda was **approved** by a unanimous vote.

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Agenda Item No. 3 Approval of November 15, 2017 Minutes

The minutes were not prepared and no action was taken.

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Agenda Item No. 4. Public Comment

Paul Pekins from Crown Castle introduced himself.

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Agenda Item No. 5. Old Business

Agenda Item No. 5a. Central Virginia Electric Cooperative Broadband Strategy

Mr. Walsh stated that the Board of Supervisors was looking for input from the Broadband Authority.

Mr. Culp noted that Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) was looking for \$2.2 million for the possibility of 3,400 connections but without any performance measures.

Mr. Culp stated that this cost was too high for 3,400 connections.

Mr. Randolph discussed that it was an issue of affordable access vs. alternatives. The bias should be to give access where none exist.

Mr. Randolph stated that it should be recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the option was on the table but what are the priorities for the County.

Ms. Palmer stated that the percentage of those who already have service is unknown. We don't know how many will be served by Century Link upgrades and which would happen first, Century Link or CVEC.

Mr. Walsh stated that it should not be a priority to have multiple options until at least one option is available to everyone. The Broadband Authority could talk to CVEC more but need details on served and unserved areas first.

Ms. Palmer noted that CVEC intends to serve dense areas first. These areas have some service already.

Mr. Culp stated that because some service of the substation is outside the county it is a regional approach.

Ms. Palmer stated that this sounds like something for the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) to coordinate.

Mr. Fritz agreed with idea of TJPDC coordinating and getting more details from CVEC.

Ms. Palmer and Mr. Randolph both stated that there was no need to involve the Board of Supervisors at this time.

Mr. Walsh **moved** that this issue should be sent to TJPDC.

The motion was **approved** by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Culp offered to communicate with TJPDC and share any information with the Broadband Authority.

#### Agenda Item No. 5b Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) Update

Mr. Culp stated that the Department of Housing and Community Development had met with Comcast. The County needs to name a management team. Mr. Culp recommended himself and Nathan Daugherty.

Mr. Culp stated that the Department of Housing and Community Development needs to submit the contract to the County. Albemarle will be the first county to do this with the Department of Housing and Community Development. The funding crosses fiscal years and is for calendar year 2018.

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#### Agenda Item No. 6. New Business

##### Agenda Item No. 6a. Legislative Update and Recommendations to Board of Supervisors

Mr. Fritz stated that the General Assembly is considering legislation effectively making small cells, including new construction, by-right in all localities. The impact on the County is limited at this time because no small cells have been proposed.

Mr. Culp noted that wireless is an option and easier to implement than fiber.

Mr. Fritz offered a brief summary of the zoning ordinance provisions for wireless facilities and asked if broadband should have different regulations than personal wireless service facilities.

Mr. Randolph noted that Santa Cruz County has removed barriers for construction.

Mr. Fritz asked if the Authority should ask the Board of Supervisors to prioritize review of the telecommunications ordinance.

Mr. Herrick stated that no review is currently under way.

Mr. Walsh noted that the County has the Broadband Authority and a controlling ordinance for personal wireless service facilities and that these may conflict.

Ms. Palmer stated that we really don't know if there is a conflict. People are impacted by towers and they don't like them. We allow facilities in residential areas. The ordinance has a dual purpose of protecting resources but still providing service.

Mr. Randolph noted that the trade-off of the policy is that it may slow down deployment of broadband but we don't know where the County falls on deployment.

Ms. Palmer offered to communicate with the Board of Supervisors. They will want to know an estimate of the time involved.

Mr. Fritz stated that would be dependent on what the Board of Supervisors wanted to do. Full review could take a year.

#### Agenda Item No. 6b. Potential Regional Approach for FCC CAF II Auction

Mr. Culp reminded everyone that he had forwarded webinar data to the members. The highlights are that bidding on census blocks has been made more flexible. In March or April the bidder list will be available and the Authority can talk to the bidders after the list comes out to see how we can help them.

#### Agenda Item No. 6c. Strategies for Supporting Citizen Aid to Construction and Other Needs

Mr. Culp noted that a request is before the Board of Supervisors for \$200,000 and if approved the Authority will need to decide what to do with those funds.

Mr. Walsh stated that we don't want to spend it just to spend it.

Mr. Culp agreed and stated that options would need to be reviewed so that the best decision could be made.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Culp agreed to develop a draft strategy to share with the Broadband Authority.

#### Agenda Item No. 6d. Schedule for ISP Presentations to ABBA

Mr. Walsh stated that he will reach out to the providers and schedule future meetings.

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#### Agenda Item No. 7. Other Matters

There were none.

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#### Agenda Item No. 8. Adjourn

Mr. Randolph **moved** to adjourn.

Mr. Culp **seconded**.

Mr. Walsh **adjourned** the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

DRAFT