A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on October 23, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., in Room 235 of the County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

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

ABSENT:  Mr. Waldo Jaquith

Also Present:  Mr. Richard DeLoria (Senior Assistant County Attorney)

Agenda Item No. 1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order.
Mr. Walsh established a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda
Mr. Randolph moved to accept the agenda.
Ms. Palmer seconded.
The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item No. 3 Approval of September 25, 2019 minutes
This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment
No members of the public spoke.

Agenda Item No. 5 Old Business
Mr. Walsh presented Mr. Culp with a nameplate to be prominently displayed at future meetings. Mr. Walsh thanked Mr. Culp for his efforts.

Agenda Item No. 5a. Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) 2019 Update (CVEC)
Mr. Culp reported that there is no new information. CVEC is on track with the buildout.

Mr. Culp stated that we need to be prepared to work with the Economic Development Authority and County Finance Department to process the tax agreement funds.

Agenda Item No. 5b. VATI 2020 (CenturyLink) Application Update
Mr. Culp stated that there is no news to report which he has interpreted as a positive sign. Mr. Culp stated that November 9th is the deadline to hear from VATI.
Agenda Item. No. 5c. Dominion Energy Update

Mr. Culp noted that he and Mr. Walsh met with Dominion representatives and Gary Wood ofCVEC on a conference call.

Mr. Walsh stated that the Dominion representatives were excited to hear from Mr. Wood about the technical issues. Dominion appears interested in doing something however, no specific areas were discussed.

Ms. Palmer stated she spoke with Dominion about significant power outages in the Batesville/Miller School Road area. Dominion was requesting addresses for impacted property because they could not identify the lines in the Miller School area. Ms. Palmer noted that residents are providing the information.

Mr. Randolph noted that broadband is not something Dominion has experience in or has shown interest in.

Mr. Culp stated that he was travelling to Richmond tomorrow to further discuss broadband with Dominion.

Mr. Walsh stated that residents in the Allen Road area had discussed how much it would cost to get broadband about four weeks ago. Within three weeks they were able to arrange the funding and the service is being extended and approximately 80 to 90 connections will be available.

Mr. Randolph stated that the lesson learned is that when neighbors get together, they can do it.

Agenda Item No. 5d. ABBA Board of Directors Schedule

Mr. Walsh stated that this is a resolution to request that the Board of Supervisors modify the list of County staff eligible to serve on the ABBA Board of Directors.

Ms. Palmer moved to approve the resolution.

Mr. Randolph seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Agenda Item No. 6. New Business

Agenda Item No. 6a Discussion of Ongoing Mapping Needs

Mr. Culp stated that John Noran and Damon Pettit have been helping with mapping. The mapping is trying to show areas that receive updated service as compared to where service previously existed. This assistance may avoid the need for ABBA funds to support the mapping but this will need to be evaluated in the future.

Mr. Walsh stated that he would like to see mapping at the address level to see if service is available.

Agenda Item No. 6b. Establishment of Public Safety and Public Schools ABBA Participation.
Mr. Culp stated the he is working with the schools and public safety. Public safety is working on tower updates. Mr. Culp is coordinating with them to see if broadband may be a part of those upgrades. Mr. Culp is investigating school resources to see what is available.

Mr. Culp noted that the schools are building fiber to schools. The schools wireless project is not finalized, and more details should be available in the spring.

Mr. Walsh stated that he believes the schools can use available spectrum for more than just school use.

Mr. Culp shared a form letter addressed to Ajit Pai, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. This letter encourages federal block grants to Virginia instead of the funding mechanism the FCC has been using.

Mr. Randolph stated that block grants come with some strings. The letter could have been better written to acknowledge the benefits of using block grants.

Mr. Culp noted that New York is the only state using block grants.

Mr. Walsh asked what are the limits New York has on using block grants. This should be know before encouraging the FCC to give Virginia what New York has.

Mr. DeLoria and Mr. Culp volunteered to research the use of block grants and rewrite the letter.

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Agenda Item No. 7 Other Matters

Agenda Item No. 7a. November and December 2019 Meeting Dates and Time.
Mr. Walsh moved to move the November meeting from November 27th to November 26th.
Ms. Palmer seconded.
The motion was approved unanimously.
Mr. Walsh moved to move the December meeting from December 18th to December 11th.
Ms. Palmer seconded.
The motion was approved unanimously.

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Agenda Item No. 8. Adjourn

With no other business before the Authority, Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.