

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on November 28, 2018, at 5:05 p.m., in Room 235 of the County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

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

ABSENT: Mr. Landon McDowell

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.

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Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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

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

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Agenda Item No. 3 Approval of September 26, 2018 and October 24, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Culp **moved** to approve the September 26, 2018 and October 24, 2018 minutes.

The minutes were **approved** by a unanimous vote.

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Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

Marianne Barbour of Barboursville asked for an update on Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) partnership with the County. Mr. Walsh stated that a grant from the County may help prioritize CVEC's Albemarle project. Ms. Palmer stated that no deal with CVEC has been finalized but it is still being worked on.

Diane Silverman of Boonesville stated that CVEC told her that 2020 was the earliest that service may be provided. Mr. Walsh confirmed that this matches what CVEC has said publicly elsewhere.

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Agenda Item No. 5 Old Business

Agenda Item No. 5a CVEC Update

Mr. Culp noted that the Board of Supervisors has been updated on the Albemarle Broadband Authority's support of the CVEC project and that negotiations were ongoing.

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

Mr. Culp stated that he is currently working with four providers to make applications. Deadline for applications is December 14<sup>th</sup>.

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Agenda Item No. 6. New Business

Agenda Item No. 6a. Scheduling December ABBA meeting prior to VATI Deadline (Dec. 14, 2018)

Mr. Culp recommended that ABBA meet prior to the VATI deadline to allow ABBA to provide input on the applications.

Mr. Culp **moved** that ABBA meet on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and cancel the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Fritz **seconded**.

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

Agenda Item No. 6b. VACO Broadband Session Report.

Mr. Randolph provided an update on the Virginia Association of Counties annual conference held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Randolph stated that the Governor has acknowledged that parts of the state do not have broadband. Mr. Randolph stated that Mr. Feinman, head of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Committee, had a session on broadband where it was announced that the state's efforts will match the 1930s rural electrification program with a seven to seven and one-half year implementation schedule. The technology used will be mixed. Public private partnerships will be used where possible including possible grants from the Department of Housing and Community Development. Electric service providers, including Dominion, will be potential partners. The state's goal is 25/3 speed. A scoring system supporting institutions and businesses will be developed. The state has acknowledged that the use of census tract level of definition to determine if service is available is inadequate and the state is looking into alternatives. Mr. Randolph noted that any bill introduced into the General Assembly will need broad rural support.

Mr. Walsh asked if ABBA should reach out to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

Ms. Palmer noted that the Planning District is actively engaged in this topic.

Mr. Fritz stated the FCC is also looking at using something other than census blocks to determine if service is provided.

Agenda Item No. 6c. Certify Closed Session

Mr. Culp **moved** to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (Virginia's Freedom of Information Act) to discuss investment of public funds for broadband deployment within a public utility service area within the County (Subsection 6), the award of public contracts involving potential VATI application partners and the expenditure of public funds where discussion in open session would affect the Authority's bargaining position or negotiating strategy (Subsection 29), and confidential proprietary information and trade secrets subject to exclusion in Virginia Code §2.2-3705.6(19) (Subsection 33).

Mr. Fritz **seconded**.

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

The Board went into closed session.

Mr. Culp **moved** to certify by recorded vote that to the best of each Director's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session.

Ms. Palmer **seconded**.

The motion was **approved** by a unanimous, roll call vote

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Agenda Item No. 7 Other Matters

Mr. Randolph recommended that projects be proposed as a placeholder in the CIP in the next update.

Ms. Palmer stated that ABBA is getting a better idea of the costs of projects because of the VATI applications. This may help drive a future budget request.

Mr. Randolph noted that the strategic plan supports broadband as both a mid and low priority. Funding should reflect this.

Mr. Culp discussed the VATI application that involves CVEC and Louisa County.

Mr. Walsh **moved** that ABBA authorizes Mike Culp to make such decisions as are deemed by him to be necessary in the VATI application process to maximize the prospect possibilities for the County given the resources available between now and December 14<sup>th</sup>. This includes the ability to sign such documents as are necessary to achieve this end.

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

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Agenda Item No. 8. Adjourn

With no other business before the Authority, Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 6:38 PM.