

**LOUISA COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
LOUISA COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
1 WOOLFOLK AVENUE
LOUISA, VIRGINIA
February 5, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Ed Jarvis, Paul Bradbury, Timothy Layne, Jim Ogg, Mary Johnson, Duane Adams, Rachel Trombetta

Absent: Fitzgerald Barnes, Melvin Burruss

Others Present: Bob Hardy, Louisa County Information Technology Director, Helen Phillips, County Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jarvis called the February 5, 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

Mr. Bradbury ask for discussion of a work session to be added to the agenda as item “d” under unfinished business.

Ms. Trombetta stated she has drafted a power point on the history of the Broadband Authority. She mentioned there is information on the status of where the Authority is at on the towers. Ms. Trombetta asked for the Authority to review her power point and have their suggestions on changes and ideas ready by the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Jarvis stated the January meeting minutes are still being drafted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hardy stated there is a hold on committing any new funds and spending existing funds for projects that have not started. Mr. Hardy said two towers are being planned and applications are in the process of being made for the Belcher’s Road Site Plan and the Yanceyville tower. Mr. Hardy stated he spoke with a representative from DHCD and she informed him as to why the

County did not get VATI Grants this year for the Yanceyville Tower. Mr. Hardy said it was a scoring arrangement of how many points you get for different topics such as speed of internet, number of houses, etc.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the Belcher's Road Tower and Yanceyville Tower.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion - Holly Grove Tower

Mr. Hardy stated the foundation for the tower has been poured and construction should start next week, weather permitting. Mr. Hardy said Mr. Boswell believes the tower will be complete by the end of the month and the radios will be on the tower by the end of March. Mr. Hardy said there has not been a formal agreement with Mr. McCray to compensate him for the use of his land. He stated Mr. McCray would prefer having a transformer closer to his home site so if electric did have to be put in he would not have to pay as much in cost to install it. Mr. Hardy noted there is an option to paying Mr. McCray's taxes for a few years, if the Authority decided to go that route. He said that would need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion – Co-location of Louisa County EMS Radio Towers

Mr. Hardy said the EMS Towers have County equipment on them and is in the loop. Mr. Hardy said it is his understanding that SCS is still planning on collocating on the Porter Town Tower. Mr. Hardy stated the amount of people potentially served by the Zion's Tower could be very little, and believes it would be best for the Authority to put service on the Porter Town Tower.

Internet Services Survey

Ms. Johnson said she had a conversation with Ms. Stacey Fletcher (Commissioner of Revenue) and she suggested include an internet services survey in the tax bill for eight cents a copy. Ms. Johnson stated it will cost roughly \$2,400. She provided another option to print and mail the survey themselves. Ms. Johnson provided the Authority with a copy of the survey for their review.

Mr. Adams stated the County will be sending out an internet survey for Wares Crossroads to the bridge on Route 208, and Kentucky Springs Road from Route 208 to Contrary Creek. He explained because there is a major development getting ready to break ground in that area. He reached out to Comcast about providing service to the area. He said Comcast stated they are going to needed additional information before any decisions can be made.

Ms. Johnson suggested going over the survey so they can get the survey out as soon as possible.

The Authority reviewed the survey, questions and comments were addressed.

Work Session Date

Mr. Jarvis suggested the Authority have a work session on February 19th at 6:30 p.m. to work on the PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

The Authority agreed to have a work session on the date and time.

Treasurer's Report/ Approval of the Bills

Mr. Hardy stated there was nothing new to report, but had a couple of bills for approval totaling \$5,000. Mr. Hardy addressed Wide Open Networks concerns regarding payment for their work. He explained Wide Open has been working for the County since 2015 and less than half of their invoices have been paid. Mr. Hardy stated Wide-Open would like to work something out with and seek final payment soon.

Mr. Bradbury asked if there were millstones that needed to be met before payment would be received outlined in the contract.

Mr. Hardy stated there are specifics outlined in the contract, however, Wide Open made assumptions on when payment would be made. He noted the Authority is on year five of this project and Wide Open has not received full payment on projects completed in year one and into year two.

Discussion ensued regarding the Treasurer's Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Gartland, Mineral District – offered changes to the internet services survey. He also recommended the Authority look into providing cheaper service and requested updated information on the Yanceyville tower.

Mr. Hardy stated they are hoping to get Verizon to locate on the tower to provide cell service, and have another company provide internet service.

Questions and comments were addressed by the Authority regarding the Yanceyville tower and Mr. Gartland's concerns with the internet service survey.

Mr. Adams stressed the importance of the PowerPoint to the Board of Supervisors. He encouraged the Authority to lay out a very clear idea of where they are going and what they have done.

Ms. Trombetta stated in her planning meeting, they talked about the success of the Authority and future ideas. Ms. Trombetta asked Mr. Adams if he is looking to augment this with some of their ideas.

Mr. Adams stated yes and how they need the input of experts to get the best outcomes.

CHAIRMAN/GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

On the motion of Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Broadband Authority voted to enter Closed Session at 8:54 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the following:

- 1. In accordance with §2.2-3711 (A) (29) VA Code Ann., for the purpose of discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

REGULAR SESSION

The Authority voted to return to Regular Session at 9:25 p.m.

RESOLUTION - CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Voter	Role	Vote
Paul Bradbury	Voter	Yes/Aye
Ed Jarvis	Voter	Yes/Aye
Mary Johnson	Voter	Yes/Aye
Timothy Layne	Voter	Yes/Aye
Rachel Trombetta	Voter	Yes/Aye

The Authority voted to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Louisa County Broadband Authority has convened a Closed Meeting this 5th day of February 2020, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Louisa County Broadband Authority that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with the Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 5th day of February 2020, that the Louisa County Broadband Authority does hereby certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting was heard, discussed or considered by the Louisa County Broadband Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Ms. Trombetta, seconded by Mr. Bradbury, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority voted to adjourn the February 5, 2020, regular meeting at approximately 9:42 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next Broadband Authority meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.