

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on May 22, 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, Ms. Liz Palmer, Mr. Rick Randolph, Mr. Waldo Jaquith, Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: None

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

Item 7c was added to the agenda to discuss VACORP Insurance Renewal.

Ms. Palmer **moved** to accept the agenda.

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

Agenda Item No. 3 Approval of April 24, 2019 minutes

The minutes were not available.

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

No members of the public spoke.

Agenda Item No. 5 Presentation and Discussion: TING Broadband Updates

Agenda Item No. 5a. Guest Speaker: Kara Chandeysson

Ms. Chandeysson introduced herself. She stated that TING has been providing service since 2015 and is currently in seven cities and that Charlottesville was the first TING town.

Mr. Randolph asked how TING decides what towns to go to.

Ms. Chandeysson stated that sometimes it is a partnership with the cities approaching TING. She stated that they also look at the demographics of the community and what competitors exist.

Ms. Chandeysson noted that the use of right-of-way in the County is different from the use of right-of-way in the City.

Ms. Chandeysson stated that the Charlottesville has an expedited process for TING and other service providers. She stated that TING is finding that they need to replace poles often because the poles were maxed out. The TING system is being designed to be redundant to improve reliability.

Ms. Chandeysson stated that TING has 35 employees in two offices. One office is in the city and one is in the county. She noted that TING provides 1 gigabyte residential service for \$89 and \$139 for business.

Ms. Chandeysson noted that TING works to install into multi-family units and UVA sports facilities and City owned buildings. She noted that TING works with developers to install infrastructure when new developments are going in. However, most work is being done in the City but installations do occur in the County such as Fontana, Cascadia and Riverside Village. She stated that TING is working with the Economic Development Office to bring fiber up Route 29.

Mr. Jaquith asked about use of the school fiber system which is used only for the school system.

Mr. Walsh stated that the school system would need to answer this question.

Mr. Jaquith asked if TING would be interested in operating a hybrid system where TING leases infrastructure or is TING only interested in owning the infrastructure.

Ms. Chandeysson stated TING would be interested in having further discussions.

Agenda Item No. 6. Old Business

Agenda Item No. 6a. Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2019 Update

Mr. Culp stated that a single contract has been awarded to CVEC. Mr. Culp noted that CVEC is ready to build Midway. Mr. Culp suggested a press conference/release, AMAIL and community email be prepared that will make it clear that VATI and County are providing funding to deploy fiber and get the public informed about what is going on and what can be done.

Ms. Palmer and Mr. Culp said they would work together on the public outreach.

Agenda Item No. 6b. USDA ReConnect

Mr. Culp stated that Nelson Cable is looking to apply and come into Albemarle County.

Agenda Item No. 6c AEP/Dominion Update

Mr. Culp stated that AEP and Dominion have not developed their plans yet. Mr. Culp noted some options of cooperation between CVEC and AEP are possible and ABBA may be able to provide some support.

Agenda Item No. 7a VACORP Insurance Renewal

Mr. Randolph **moved** to authorize Mr. Walsh to sign the necessary documents.

Mr. Culp **seconded**.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Mr. Walsh left the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6c AEP/Dominion Update

Mr. Culp announced that AEP is going to be working in Grayson County and that Dominion had made no announcement.

Agenda Item No. 6d 2019/2020 Budget

Mr. Culp stated that ABBA would be receiving \$800,000 from the Board of Supervisors in June.

Agenda Item No.6e Resident Survey

Mr. Culp stated that the residents of Tillman Road are doing a speed test and that the residents of The Quarries are also sending data. Century Link is looking into combining projects so that they have more people in the project because this improves the VATI application.

Agenda Item No. 7 New Business

Agenda Item No. 7a. Strategizing VATI 2020

Mr. Culp stated that he will work on the Sharepoint site and that he is working to bring in some temporary help. Mr. Culp asked all of the members to review the job description and provide comments.

Agenda Item No. 7b EDA/ABBA Joint Meeting

Mr. Culp stated that the purpose of the joint meeting would be to discuss and resolve reimbursement for the CVEC project. The details of the meeting have not been set yet and Mr. Culp, Mr. Fritz and Mr. Deloria will continue to coordinate the meeting and agenda.

Mr. Culp stated that it may be appropriate to discuss a legislative initiative to allow Broadband Authorities issue grants in the same manner as an EDA.

Agenda Item No. 8. Other Matters

There were no items.

Agenda Item No. 8. Adjourn

With no other business before the Authority, Mr. Culp adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.