

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on June 20, 2018, at 5:00 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,  
Mr. Landon McDowell, 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.

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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 May 16, 2018 Minutes

The minutes were not available. Action deferred to a future meeting.

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Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

Mr. Walsh opened the Public Comment period.

Jennifer Sargent and Linda Rosenberg introduced themselves. They are both residents of Bridelwood Trail. They both explained their desire for broadband and difficulty in getting it. They both had contacted CenturyLink and have been unsuccessful in obtaining broadband.

Ms. Rosenberg noted that the speed she gets is 0.3 Mbps up and 0.1 down Mbps. Cell phone service is poor and does not provide an alternative.

Ms. Sargent stated the cell phone service at her residence is also poor. She stated that she is a doctor. Her daughter and her have to use the office in order to have internet access. She noted that her landline goes out and this leaves her without 911 services. She had an appointment to get high speed service and was told it would be another month. She stated that CenturyLink says they can provide 3 Mbps speed.

Ms. Rosenberg said that she was told she could get up to 60 Mbps and had an appointment soon with CenturyLink to have her service upgraded and offered to report back on the outcome of the appointment.

Mr. Walsh recommended they contact the State Corporation Commission and notify them of the problems they have been experiencing with CenturyLink.

Being no further comment Mr. Walsh closed the Public Comment period.

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Agenda Item No. 5 New Business

Agenda Item No. 5a. FiberLight Presentation

This item was deferred to a future meeting

Agenda Item No. 5b Request to adjust meeting dates

Mr. DeLoria distributed a proposed resolution to adjust the meeting dates to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month starting on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Randolph **moved** for adoption of the resolution.

Ms. Palmer seconded.

The motion was **approved** by a vote of 5:0. Mr. Culp was not present at the time of voting.

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Agenda Item No. 6 Old Business

Mr. Walsh noted that since Mr. Culp was not present he would move on to Agenda Item No. 7

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Agenda Item No. 7 Other Matters

Mr. Walsh stated that the Authority has a smattering of data on what service is available. The Authority should reach out and find areas that need improvement based on data. Mr. Walsh distributed a handout that may be used to identify the data to be collected.

Mr. Randolph stated his concern about what this would do to Mr. Culp and his workload. Putting a questionnaire on the web does not work for obvious reasons. Placing ads in the paper or using other ways of requesting responses generates mail responses that must be processed. Mr. Randolph stated that the Authority wants to get data to allow the Authority to focus on solutions. The question is how to get that data.

Ms. Palmer suggested that the Authority start with the data we already have.

Mr. Walsh asked that everyone think about what questions to ask and ways to get data

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Agenda Item No. 6 Old Business

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

Mr. Culp arrived at 5:55 and provided an update. \$483,000 has been appropriated for the Greenwood project. Work has started. Comcast will do the work and sign up people. ABBA measures pass by not

sign ups. Completion is expected by December 31, 2018. There will be a ceremony at the Greenwood Community Center. Mr. Culp will provide more details when they are available.

Ms. Palmer stated her hope is that the Greenwood project will be a jumping off point for the nearby areas.

Mr. Culp noted that there might be another grant or cost share option for nearby areas.

#### Agenda Item No. 6b Green Creek Road Update

Mr. Culp provided an update. CenturyLink was the only respondent. CenturyLink is suspending aid to construction. ABBA partnership might encourage them to start up the subsidy again. ATT/First Net might be an option for the area but it is not a firm proposal at this time.

Ms. Palmer asked where CenturyLink is in Connect America Fund (CAF) process.

Mr. Culp stated it is now in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of a 6 year program. We are receiving information from CenturyLink which may indicate a concern they will not receive additional funding. Mr. Culp noted that the expensive projects were pushed to the end of the buildout.

Ms. Palmer noted that The Quarries were to be done in the 6<sup>th</sup> year. She asked if this was still the schedule.

Mr. Culp responded that he did not know.

Mr. Culp stated he was unsure what happens if they take CAF funds and don't build. He doesn't know if they have decided not to pursue some areas that are high cost. The FCC can't or won't provide information. Mr. Culp offered to follow up with CenturyLink and report back to ABBA.

#### Agenda Item No. 6c Review and Discuss ABBA Broadband Project Selection Process

Mr. Culp stated that we have only one project and more data is needed.

#### Agenda Item No. 6d CenturyLink Meeting Recap and Discussion

Mr. Culp identified projects that may be available. These included Howardsville with 200 homes, 29 North neighborhoods, Cobham, Craigs Store Road, Greenwood/Afton. Afton is not covered by the Greenwood project.

Ms. Palmer discussed state legislation calling for the Comprehensive Plan to include plans for broadband. The legislation does not provide details on what actually has to be in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Randolph provided an update that CenturyLink is not testing 5G.

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

Mr. Walsh stated that Central Virginia Electric Coop is talking with other localities.

Mr. Culp stated that we should know VATI funding availability soon.

Ms. Palmer asked what assistance would be available for updating the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Culp state he will look at what assistance the state can offer.

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Agenda Item No. 8. Adjourn

With no other business before the Authority, Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.