

Albemarle Broadband Authority

Minutes: December 11, 2018

1. Chair Bucky Walsh called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. With the absence of members Landon McDowell and Bill Fritz, a quorum was available as members Palmer, Randolph, Culp, and Walsh were present. Mr. Richard DeLoria was also present as legal representation and counsel.
2. The Board approved the Agenda with one change: the meeting was to adjourn to December 12, 2018, at 3:00 PM in the Lane Auditorium.
3. The November 28, 2018, minutes were tabled for a month for review. Mr. Randolph volunteered to serve as secretary pro tempore.
4. No member of the public spoke.
5. Old Business:
 - a. CVEC: The Board reviewed the PowerPoint presentation Mr. Culp had prepared for the BOS meeting the next day about the CVEC/ABBA partnership. The five-frame presentation features: 1) the what, why and how of the \$550,000 project; 2) map of the CVEC service area in the County; 3) summary of the tax grant by year; 4) timeline for the project; and 5) the call for the motion. It was recommended that Mr. Walsh make this succinct presentation with Mr. Culp available to answer any technical questions. Discussion ensued about the value of a vigorous public engagement communication strategy for the CVEC/ABBA program with CVEC members and with the broader Albemarle public.
 - b. VATI: Mr. Culp reviewed the three VATI applications: Midway, Schuyler/Green Creek and Howardsville/Scottsville. Presented per application were the cost per unit served, number of overall units served, overall project cost, Federal poverty levels by percentage, the ABBA contribution, and the VATI contribution. With \$1,358,500 in costs attributed to the non-ABBA contributed portion of the Midway project, CVEC is applying for *\$500,000 from VATI to cover the unserved portion of the project, leaving \$858,500 to be covered by CVEC. The cost outlays for VATI on the other two areas are: \$26,000 for Schuyler/Green Creek and \$42,600 for Howardsville/ Scottsville (west of Hatton Ferry Road). The recommended cost outlays for ABBA on the three projects are: \$71,500 for Midway, \$26,000 for Schuyler/Green Creek and \$42,600 for Howardsville/Scottsville (west of Hatton Ferry Road). All three projects involve the installation of fiber. The Board agreed on the need to provide a full picture to County residents of the number of households assisted to date by ABBA and for the Board and public to have a clear idea of the cost to connect for each household serviced per project.

*\$500,000 reduced to \$301,748 on Dec. 14, 2019.

*The Board unanimously approved all three VATI projects on a motion by Mr. Walsh.

6. New Business:

- a. *The Board agreed on the merit of a one-page quarterly report to the BOS.
- b. *The Board approved on a motion by Mr. Walsh an additional funding request of \$800,000 (beyond the existing budgeted \$200,000) from the BOS, to be sourced from positive variance funds, to be made available within the FY2020 budget. This approval was based on Mr. Walsh's and Mr. Culp's calculations of the percentage of VATI funds the County had received in the past and Mr. Randolph's information from VACO about the size of the Governor's proposed VATI budget for FY2020 (originally \$25million, subsequently increased that same day to \$50 million). The Board agreed that if it looked like ABBA could not use the additional funds for VATI or other grant opportunities, the funds would then be returned to the general fund of the County.
- c. *The Board agreed to create at its January 2019 meeting its 2019 ABBA Board meeting schedule around Landon McDowell's time constraints to ensure his maximum participation.

7. Other Matters

- a. *The Board, at the advice of counsel, designated Mr. James Douglas as ABBA's FOIA officer, as required by state law.
- b. *The Board discussed the potential of the EDA charging ABBA an administrative fee for processing the tax incentive payments for CVEC broadband projects. After some discussion and input from counsel, the Board determined that there was not a clear amount of money the EDA might be subject to as an administrative fee, and that over the course of the CVEC agreement that could change. The Board provided the Chair the authority during this agreement to reimburse from unallocated ABBA funds the EDA for any nominal requested financial handling fees that the County subjected them to and that they requested from ABBA. The expectation was that this would be somewhere between 1% and 0% of each reimbursement.

8. *On a final motion by Mr. Walsh, the Board agreed to adjourn until the following day at 3pm in Lane Auditorium for the discussion by the BOS about whether to approve the CVEC/ABBA partnership.

Minutes: December 12, 2018

1. Chair Bucky Walsh called the December 11, 2018 meeting back to order at 3:28PM. With the absence of members Landon McDowell and Bill Fritz, a quorum was available as members Palmer, Randolph, Culp, and Walsh were present.
2. Mr. Walsh discussed the CVEC Agreement with the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors agreed Unanimously in favor of the ABBA strategy; therefore, ABBA took no further action.
3. Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 3:34PM.