

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on February 26, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., in Room 235 of the County Office Building, McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia.

PRESENT: Mr. Bucky Walsh, Ms. Liz Palmer, Mr. Trevor Henry, Mr. Bill Fritz

ATTENDING REMOTELY FROM LANSING MICHIGAN: Mr. Waldo Jaquith

ABSENT: Ms. Donna Price

Also Present: Mr. Richard DeLoria (Senior Assistant County Attorney), Mr. Mike Culp, Mr. Rick Randolph

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Agenda Item No. 1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order.

Mr. Walsh established a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Mr. Walsh stated that Mr. Jaquith had previously notified the Chair of a business trip he had in Lansing, Michigan and had requested to attend the meeting remotely.

Mr. Walsh **moved** to authorize Mr. Jaquith to attend the meeting remotely.

The members verified that Mr. Jaquith could hear the meeting and that Mr. Jaquith could be heard.

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

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Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

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

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

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Agenda Item No. 3 Approval of Jan. 22, 2020 Minutes

The minutes were not ready. No action was taken.

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Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comment

Heather Roland introduced herself. She stated she lives in Rosemont and that the speeds drop at the top of the hill. She stated the back portion of the subdivision has lower speeds than the front. Ragged Mountain residents are trying to get a group together in the area to help improve service.

Mr. Culp stated that the Rosemont, Taylors Gap area is seen as an area that ABBA might be able to do something with. The area is identified as a potential grant area.

Bob Mooney introduced himself. He stated he lives in Milton Hills. He stated the area is served by CenturyLink mostly but some people have access to Xfinity. He stated that those with Xfinity have fine

service. Mr. Mooney stated that the cost of extending Xfinity is estimated at \$165 thousand. He stated that CenturyLink service less than 4 Mbps.

Greg Keene introduced himself. He stated that he lives in Advance Mills Village. The subdivision has 35 homes. He stated that CenturyLink does not pay half the cost of the upgrade and even if the residents pay for the upgraded equipment it would belong to CenturyLink and it could be used by those that did not pay for the service upgrade.

Martin Johnson introduced himself. He stated he lives in the Taylor Mountain area. He stated that he relies on internet for medical things. He stated that the speed is not adequate and is variable at different times of the day.

Margarette Cox introduced herself. She stated she lives in Rosemont which has 50 homes. She stated that the lines in the area should have been replaced. She stated CenturyLink wants \$50 thousand to upgrade the lines and that the upgraded lines would not be fiber.

Beth Hickey introduced herself. She stated she lives in the Ragged Mountain Farm area. She stated that the speeds in the area are so low that people in the area cannot submit the ABBA survey. She stated that CenturyLink has been receptive to working with residents.

Jeff Luck introduced himself. He stated he lives in the Ragged Mountain area. He stated he works from home and needs the upload speeds available from fiber for his work.

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#### Agenda Item No. 5 Old Business

Mr. Walsh took these items out of order from the agenda.

#### Agenda Item No. 5c Broadband Report Progress

Mr. Culp stated that the mapping is coming along and is helping to identify areas where broadband needs exist. Mr. Culp noted that the mapping will be shared with the schools where some of the information on equity issue can be obtained for inclusion in decision making.

Mr. Culp noted that the improving mapping will provide more detail than currently available, and this will be helpful when making grant applications.

#### Agenda Item No. 5b VATI 2020 (CenturyLink) Project Status

Mr. Culp stated that the contract negotiations are underway and have gone to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for approval. Mr. Culp stated that last year the contract was approved in May. This year we hope to have it done in March.

#### Agenda Item No. 5a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2019 Update (CVEC)

Mr. Culp stated that CVEC is building out but has not turned on anything yet. Mr. Culp reported that CVEC has stated that they have a 50% take rate and that a March activation is expected for Midway.

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#### Agenda Item No. 6 New Business

Agenda Item No. 6a Review and Approve next steps for Request for Proposals

Mr. Randolph recommended running the RFI by DHCD to see if they can recommend anything that would make the RFI better.

The Board agreed that the ultimate goal is to release an RFP and the RFI should make clear that this is about ABBA funds only and is not for a specific amount. The funding is for available funds.

Mr. Walsh asked all members to provide comments to Mr. Culp by the start of next week so that the final RFI can be released.

Mr. Walsh stated that review criteria needs to be evaluated and established, including weighting for the RFP. This does not need to be done for the RFI.

Mr. Culp stated he will work with ABBA feedback and Purchasing to release the RFI. Mr. Henry volunteered to work with Mr. Culp.

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Agenda Item No. 7. Adjourn

With no other business before the Authority, Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.