

A regular meeting of the Albemarle County Broadband Authority was held on May 27, 2020. The meeting was held electronically using Zoom and telephone starting at 5:05 p.m.

PRESENT AND ATTENDING REMOTELY: Mr. Bucky Walsh, Mr. Waldo Jaquith, Ms. Liz Palmer, Mr. Trevor Henry, Ms. Donna Price, Mr. Bill Fritz

ABSENT: None

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

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

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

Mr. Walsh announced the following for the record:

Because of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the limitations on group gatherings imposed by the Governor's executive orders, this meeting is being held by electronic communication means on the Zoom platform. It is authorized by the County's April 15th Continuity of Government Ordinance, this Authority's resolution of April 22 and the Virginia statute signed into law on April 24 permitting this Authority to meet electronically to discuss and transact business necessary to continue its operations.

Mr. Walsh requested that each member and officer identify the location from where they were attending the meeting.

Mr. Fritz stated he was attending from home.

Mr. Henry stated he was attending home.

Mr. Jaquith stated he was attending from home.

Ms. Palmer stated she was attending from home.

Mr. Walsh stated he was attending from home.

Mr. Culp stated he was attending from his office in the Albemarle County Office Building on McIntire.

Mr. DeLoria stated he was attending from his office in the Albemarle County Office Building on McIntire.

Mr. Randolph stated he was attending from home.

Mr. Walsh outlined how participation in the virtual meeting would occur.

Agenda Item No. 2 Approval of Agenda

Mr. Walsh **moved** to approve the modified agenda.

Ms. Palmer **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

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

Mr. Walsh **moved** to approve the minutes.

Ms. Palmer **seconded** the motion.

The motion was **approved** unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 4 Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Agenda Item No. 5 Old Business

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

Mr. Culp stated that the Midway fiber build was passing by 670 homes and businesses and construction was nearly complete.

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

Mr. Culp stated that there are 8 fiber projects associated with this grant and that they potentially serve 838 locations. These projects include: Buffalo River Road, Watts Passage, Coles Rolling Road, Scottsville Road, Hatton Ferry, Scottsville Road to Keene, Howardsville, and Green Creek Road.

Mr. Jaquith asked if these were DSL or fiber projects.

Mr. Culp stated that these are all fiber projects. Future VATI projects will only be fiber and will not have DSL.

Ms. Palmer asked what the timing is for these projects.

Mr. Culp stated that all of the projects should be complete by March 2021, but each project is on its own schedule. Mr. Culp noted that CenturyLink does not have detailed information on the schedule.

Ms. Palmer asked where the terminals for connection to individual homes will be located.

Mr. Culp stated that this information is not known at this time because the engineering has not been completed and that a single terminal may serve multiple connections.

At 5:22 Donna Price joined the meeting and stated she was attending from her home.

Ms. Price asked the cost for connection beyond 650 feet in length.

Mr. Culp stated this is not known at this time.

Mr. Walsh stated that it was his understanding that if the connection was over 650 feet the cost was calculated for the full length not just the portion over 650 feet.

Mr. Culp shared information for a Frequently Asked Questions page. This page is intended to be placed on the ABBA website and will be updated as new questions are asked or when new information is available.

Ms. Palmer stated that it would be helpful to provide more information about what kind of battery backup systems are available to allow people to maintain phone service in the event of power failure.

Mr. Fritz noted that the FAQ should be dynamic and updated based on the questions asked and information provided by CenturyLink.

Agenda Item No. 5c VATI 2021 Guidelines Input

Mr. Culp announced that the official posting of guidelines will occur on June 9th.

Mr. Culp noted that the budget is \$19 million which is the same as last year.

Agenda Item No. 5d Request for Proposal Status

Mr. Culp stated that the RFP was posted on May 15th, responses are due by June 30th and July 13th is the deadline to notify DHCD of intent to file.

Mr. Walsh asked if ABBA should form an informal workgroup to review the RFP and advise the full Board.

Mr. Jaquith and Mr. Culp volunteered to review the RFP responses and would include representatives from Albemarle County Schools and the Purchasing Department.

Agenda Item No. 6 New Business

Agenda Item No. 6a CARES Act and Broadband Discussion

Mr. Henry stated that the County's Incident Management Team, IMT is reviewing the CARES Act to determine funding and eligibility requirements.

Mr. Walsh asked what ABBA could do to support the IMT.

Mr. Culp stated that the discussion is focused on identifying options.

Ms. Palmer noted that broadband connection to the house isn't the only issue. Ms. Palmer stated that how broadband is used within the house should be addressed. Some people may not have computers or the ability to pay the monthly cost.

Mr. Culp stated that training may be needed for people to learn how to use the computer.

Agenda Item No. 7. Adjourn

With no other business before the Authority, Mr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.