

ORANGE COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY MINUTES

JULY 23, 2019

At a Regular Meeting of the Orange County Broadband Authority held on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, beginning at 3:30 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Gordon Building, 112 West Main Street, Orange, Virginia. Present: James K. White, Chair; R. Mark Johnson, Vice Chair; S. Teel Goodwin; James P. Crozier, and Lee H. Frame. Also present: R. Bryan David, County Administrator; Thomas E. Lacheney, County Attorney; S. Lewis Foster, Broadband Program Manager; and Alyson A. Simpson, Chief Deputy Clerk.

RE: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Frame, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority adopted the agenda, as presented. Ayes: Johnson, White, Goodwin, Crozier, Frame. Nays: None.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

On the motion of Mr. Frame, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority adopted the Consent Agenda, as presented.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As part of the Consent Agenda, the Authority approved the June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes, as presented.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As part of the Consent Agenda, the Authority approved the June 25, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes, as presented.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

There were no matters for New Business at this time.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

RE: DELIVERY OF TECHNOLOGY – CULPEPER, ORANGE, AND MADISON VATI GRANT APPLICATION

S. Lewis Foster, Broadband Program Manager, presented an opportunity to the Authority to partner with Culpeper County, Madison County, and Virginia Broadband LLC, to apply for grant funding through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's VATI Grant.

Mr. Foster noted the funding would allow for installation of middle-mile fiber along James Madison Highway (Route 15), extending 18 miles; utilization of fiber recently installed to all Orange County Public Schools and public safety towers; increased access to Culpeper County residents; and the purchase of a 99' guyed pole and wireless broadband equipment. Further, he explained that the grant would cover 80% of the project costs, with a 20% shared cost match by the localities.

Discussion ensued among the Authority regarding: determination of the funding ratio for each locality; the submission schedule for the upcoming grant cycle; and a 60% funding commitment by Orange County.

On the motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Crozier, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority authorized staff to submit a joint application for VATI Grant funding with Culpeper County, Madison County, and Virginia Broadband LLC, with up to 60% of the cost-share being provided by Orange County, as presented.

Ayes: Johnson, White, Goodwin, Crozier, Frame. Nays: None.

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION #2019-03 – FISCAL YEAR 2020 VIRGINIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVE (VATI) GRANT OPPORTUNITY

R. Bryan David, County Administrator, requested an extension on the deadline for the recently-released Request for Information (RFI) for potential Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to partner with for submission of a VATI Grant. He explained that the extension would allow for the option to engage additional ISPs as potential partners.

On the motion of Mr. Frame, seconded by Mr. Goodwin, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority authorized staff to extend the deadline to September 3, 2019, for responses to Request for Information #2019-03, as presented.

Ayes: Johnson, White, Goodwin, Crozier, Frame. Nays: None.

RE: OTHER BUSINESS

RE: BROADBAND PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

S. Lewis Foster, Broadband Program Manager, provided a report to the Authority, which included information on the following topics:

- An update on the VATI Grant efforts;
- The status of the fiber optics project;
- Accomplishments to-date;
- Upcoming meetings; and
- A summary of current projects.

Discussion ensued among the Authority regarding: the accuracy of the as-builts and inventory of the fiber optics system; the ability to locate each of the hand-holds, completion of the e-Rate project; and the wireless component of the VATI Grant.

Mr. Foster requested a called meeting of the Authority to be scheduled for August 6, 2019, to provide a description and map of the project areas that had been identified as unserved. He explained that public advertisement of the intent to apply would be the next required step.

By consensus, the Authority authorized staff to advertise for and schedule a Called Meeting of the Broadband Authority on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., as presented.

RE: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no Informational Items at this time.

RE: ADJOURN

On the motion of Mr. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Crozier, which carried by a vote of 5-0, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

James K. White, Chairman

R. Bryan David, County Administrator