



County of Augusta
Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee)
PO Box 590
Verona, VA 24482

Thursday, February 28, 2019 7:00 pm
Augusta County Government Center
Smith West Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Journell, Beverly Manor District
Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District
Mr. Powell, Middle River District Mr. Craig, Wayne District
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Dr. Pattie, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator
Ms. Amy Thornton, Sub-Committee

ABSENT: Vacant, North River District
Mr. Henderson, Pastures District
Mr. McHaffa, South River District
Ms. Susie Miller, Sub-Committee

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, February 28th, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Smith West Room at the Augusta County Government Center, Verona, Virginia.

Call to Order

Chairman Lawhorne called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. A quorum was not present.

Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes from the November 8, 2018, November 29, 2018 and January 24, 2019 were not approved due to lack of quorum.

Comments by the Public

None. Dr. Pattie requested a sign in sheet for future meetings.

Special Presentations

Mike Howdyshele and Tina Karricofe of the Augusta County Schools gave a presentation on the Augusta County Schools "Digital Transformation: What does it mean for Augusta County?"

Evan Feinman, Chief Broadband Advisor to the Governor, called in to review the status of broadband programs for the Commonwealth, including the release of the Commonwealth Connect report, anticipated appropriations, VATI grants, and suggestions on how localities can partner with individual service providers and monopolize on funding opportunities.

Members of the public had multiple questions for the presenters.

Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees

Mr. Lawhorne presented preliminary data from the GIS and survey information on behalf of the Information Management & Analysis Committee (Henderson, Lawhorne).



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Matters to be Presented by Staff

Ms. Whetzel noted that Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development posted the VATI 2019 grant applications on their website for public comment, which ended January 15, 2019. There are 31 applications totaling \$10,961,000. Grant awards have not been announced to date.

Ms. Whetzel reviewed a timeline of County broadband efforts, including studies and grants.

Ms. Whetzel noted that the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) has submitted an annual Broadband Activities in the Commonwealth report. Links to the reports were included in the agenda packet.

Old Business

There being none, Mr. Lawhorne moved to 'New Business' on the Agenda.

New Business

The Committee discussed the need for a budget request to the County Board of Supervisors and determined a letter for \$300,000 from the Chairman should be drafted.

There may be a need for future sub-committee meetings to progress Committee goals.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on March 28, 2019 at 7 pm in the Smith West Room. With no further discussion by the committee, Chairman Lawhorne adjourned the meeting.