



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

Thursday, August 22, 2019 7:00 pm
Augusta County Government Center
Smith West Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District
Mr. Powell, Middle River District
Ms. Thornton, North River District
Mr. Henderson, Pastures District
Ms. Susie Miller, Sub-Committee
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Dr. Pattie, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

ABSENT: Mr. McHaffa, South River District
Mr. Journell, Beverly Manor District
Mr. Craig, Wayne District

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, August 22nd, 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 present.

Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes from the July 25, 2019 meeting were approved with correction to move Mr. Journell and Dr. Pattie from present to absent.

Comments by the Public

Mr. Morelli spoke about his time working at Verizon and that getting a utility to upgrade is hard due to the capital cost for the utility. State grants to offset the cost would be helpful. The sizing of fiber is also important and affects cost. He noted a contact at the State Corporation Commission.

Special Presentations

None

Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees

The Information Management & Analysis Sub-Committee met with are Legislators on July 31, 2019. Mr. Henderson, Mr. Lawhorne and Ms. Carter shared take-aways from their meeting, including that they made the legislators aware of what the Augusta County Broadband Committee is trying to do and receiving the perspective from the legislators of State initiatives.

Matters to be Presented by Staff

Ms. Whetzel reviewed the proposal received from MGW Networks for the VATI 2020 grant with the Committee. The proposal included three project areas in Deerfield (North and South) and Middlebrook (from Arbor Hill to Middlebrook village) and consideration for Project Area 2 –Morris Mill Road in the RFI.



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All four projects are fiber projects. Ms. Whetzel prepared a matrix of grant requirements to assist in determining which projects to include in the application. The two Deerfield projects and the Middlebrook project will be included. A public notice was posted at Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development on Aug. 5, 2019. The Operation Committee met on August 20, 2019 to review a draft of the application and suggest narrative and data to include. County staff visited the Deerfield and Middlebrook area on Aug. 22, 2019 to gather further data for the application. The Committee discussed the local match amounts and will present recommendations (30%/40%/50%) at the August 28, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Lawhorne will plan to attend.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Henderson suggested that the County place on the County website a contact list for local providers and legislators so that citizens can relay the importance of better or expanded internet services directly.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2019 at 7 pm in the Smith West Room. With no further discussion by the committee, Chairman Lawhorne adjourned the meeting.