



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

Thursday, September 26, 2019 7:00 pm
Augusta County Government Center
Smith West Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District
Mr. Henderson, Pastures District
Mr. Journell, Beverly Manor District
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

ABSENT: Mr. McHaffa, South River District
Mr. Powell, Middle River District
Ms. Thornton, North River District
Mr. Craig, Wayne District
Dr. Pattie, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Ms. Susie Miller, Sub-Committee

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, September 26, 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 August 22, 2019 meeting were not considered due to a quorum not being present.

Comments by the Public

None

Special Presentations

None

Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees

None

Matters to be Presented by Staff

Ms. Carter and Ms. Whetzel attended the 2019 Broadband Summit on September 5, 2019 in Richmond. Ms. Carter noted that there were many localities in attendance, so the issue of improving broadband is a statewide concern. DHCD reported that there were 39 applications received for the 2020 VATI Grant that requested \$43.6 million in state funding.

Ms. Whetzel reviewed the County's response to the Dominion Energy Rural Broadband Pilot RFI. There will be a Dominion Energy project for tower upgrades from Doom to Valley (near Fadley Rd) in the future and the County highlighted in the response that there is potential for a partnership during this project.



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Ms. Whetzel reviewed the list of 2020 VATI grant applications that were received and posted on the Department of Housing and Community Development's website.

The Committee discussed the draft Request for Proposal related to the Design and Construction of Broadband Infrastructure in Augusta County. The procurement process will follow the Virginia Public Private Educational Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA). Ms. Whetzel listed the steps in the process: Issue RFP, Notice in paper, Field questions/issue addendum, Appoint Review Committee, Collect proposals, Compile evaluation scores, Perform interviews, Make selection, Award, Hold public hearing to enter into Comprehensive Agreement, Prepare Contract and other Agreements as needed. The process appears to be complicated and there was concern that providers or citizens would not be able to easily understand and respond to the RFI. The Committee suggested that Forms be prepared that aid in the process and that supporting information be provided in the RFI, including maps.

Old Business

Ms. Whetzel is working on a contact list for local providers and legislators so that citizens can relay the importance of better or expanded internet services directly. The list will be posted on the County website.

New Business

Mr. Henderson noted the importance of Economic Development Director and staff in assisting in broadband development needs and supporting small business within the County.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on October 24, 2019 at 7 pm in the Smith West Room. With no further discussion by the committee, Chairman Lawhorne adjourned the meeting.