



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

**Thursday, January 24, 2019 7:00 pm**  
Augusta County Government Center  
Smith West Room

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Craig, Wayne District  
Mr. Henderson, Pastures District  
Mr. McHaffa, South River District  
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Dr. Pattie, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
Ms. Amy Thornton, Sub-Committee  
Ms. Susie Miller, Sub-Committee

**ABSENT:** Mr. John Bowers, North River District  
Mr. Journell, Beverly Manor District  
Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District  
Mr. Powell, Middle River District

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:00pm in the Smith West Room at the Augusta County Government Center, Verona, Virginia.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Adoption of the Minutes**

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

### **Comments by the Public**

Mr. Bill Rodgers discussed the need to fill in small last mile pockets surrounded by areas of service, such as those on the east side of I-81. Cost should not be the issue to prohibit the areas from being served. Mr. McHaffa noted that providers could assist to identify the areas and work to fill the gaps. Ms. Miller questioned the true cost to provide the service versus the usual provider quote.

Ms. Miller, Ms. Jane Steele and Ms. Thornton discussed their findings from provider inquiries and what information may be helpful in determining areas of need. They stressed the economic impact of broadband and future educational requirements that will require better service. There was discussion of having Mr. Evan Feinman, the Governor's Chief Broadband Advisor, speak at the next meeting, inviting key community partners to be present.

### **Special Presentations**

None

### **Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees**

Sub-committees tasks have not yet been assigned so no matters were discussed.



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

### **Matters to be Presented by Staff**

Ms. Whetzel presented a review of the 2016 Augusta County Broadband Telecommunications Strategic Plan. She 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.

### **Old Business**

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

### **New Business**

At the previous meeting, Chairman Lawhorne discussed the possibility of forming sub-committees, specifically defined on the agenda, to accomplish specific parts of the committee Purpose outlined in the bylaws. Assignments for the Sub-Committees were discussed and agreed upon as follows:

- Information Management & Analysis (Henderson, Lawhorne)
  - Analysis of GIS, Survey, FCC and School Data
- Marketing & Outreach (Bowers, McHaffa, Powell, Craig)
  - Committee Message
  - Review of Survey
- Operations (Journell, \*Miller, \*Thornton)
  - Research/Review Grant Opportunities

Ms. Whetzel noted that Mr. Lawhorne had requested data from GIS, Survey and FCC and may have some analysis completed for discussion at the February meeting. School information is unavailable due to privacy requirements. She distributed the 2016 Survey and Business Survey Post-card for review by the Committee. Grant opportunities were listed, including USDA ReConnect, Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries and expansion of funding for VATI 2020 grants.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2019 at 7 pm in the Smith West Room. School IT Department is scheduled to present. With no further discussion by the committee, Vice-Chairman McHaffa adjourned the meeting.