



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

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

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Journell, Beverly Manor District  
Mr. Henderson, Pastures District  
Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District  
Mr. Powell, Middle River District  
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator  
Ms. Susie Miller, Sub-Committee

**ABSENT:** Vacant, North River District  
Mr. McHaffa, South River District  
Mr. Craig, Wayne District  
Dr. Pattie, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Ms. Amy Thornton, Sub-Committee

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 November 8, 2018, November 29, 2018, January 24, 2019 and February 28, 2019 were approved.

### **Comments by the Public**

Mr. Rogers questioned the ability for the State to try to get utilities to provide broadband services.

### **Special Presentations**

None

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

Ms. Whetzel reviewed a map that identified priority areas that was compiled utilizing addresses from citizen complaints. There are other areas of the County that need to be served, but this is one example of how the unserved areas could be identified for future grants.

The Committee reviewed the 2016 Internet Survey for Augusta County, VA and provided input for a future survey.

The survey will be advertised in the Summer Parks & Recreation Guide, pointing citizens to a website link. The Committee reviewed a draft ad for the guide and provided input.



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

The Committee discussed the use of a survey platform and the consensus was to continue with SurveyMonkey.

Ms. Whetzel noted she spoke at the Voice of Business Committee and reviewed the ways that Committee could assist in broadband improvements in the County.

BARC is scheduled to present at the April meeting.

Ms. Whetzel reviewed House Bill 2691, whereby Dominion Energy will receive funding to extend middle mile connectivity. A call was placed to Dominion to obtain details on the plan, but no response was received before the meeting.

Funding for future grant matches would be requested of the Board of Supervisors, who, if approved, would fund the match from the Economic Development capital budget.

VATI 2019 grant is "under review" per the DHCD CAMS website.

### **Old Business**

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

### **New Business**

Mr. Powell noted that it is a risk for providers to put in a proposal and that we need to encourage them, as the need is there. Mr. Lawhorne agreed that providers would need to budget correctly or could lose money. The Request for Information process should be reviewed. Mr. Henderson noted that incentives to providers should be considered in the review.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on April 25, 2019 at 7 pm in the Smith West Room. With no further discussion by the committee, Chairman Lawhorne adjourned the meeting.