



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

Thursday, August 27, 2020 7:00 pm
In Person and Via Electronic Means Due to COVID-19

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Henderson, Pastures District
Mr. Powell, Middle River District
Ms. Thornton, North River District
Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District
Mr. Journell, Beverly Manor District
Mr. Carter, South River District
Mr. Kirby, Wayne District
Ms. Carter, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Mr. Morelli, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Ms. Whetzel, Deputy County Administrator

ABSENT: None

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7:00pm via in person and electronic means. The Government Center was open to the public on the date of the meeting but some attendees participated through electronic means due to COVID-19.

Call to Order

Meeting started at 7:00pm. A quorum was present. The Committee welcomed Mr. Carter and Mr. Kirby as new members and everyone provided introductions.

Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes from the January 23, 2020, February 27, 2020, May 28, 2020, June 25, 2020 and July 23, 2020 were approved.

Comments by the Public

None

Special Presentations

None

Matters to be Presented by Sub-Committees

None

Matters to be Presented by Staff

Ms. Whetzel summarized the two applications submitted for the VATI 2021 grant:

- **Rural Broadband Network Services (RBNS, dba High Speed Link.net)**
2 towers with equipment in Fort Defiance and Morris Mill area, estimated 1234 households could be served, max speed of 100 mbps/25 mbps, total cost of \$769,420.
- **MGW Communications**

4 Fiber to the Home projects – Deerfield area, Morris Mill area, north of Middlebrook area, partnership with Highland County on application, estimated 1306 households could be served, max speed of 1 Gig/50 mbps, total cost of \$1,902,821.

State funds of 70% were requested for both applications. The grant applications were submitted on August 17, 2020. DHCD received 45 applications from throughout the state and they are posted on the DHCD website.

Matters to be Presented by the Committee

The Committee decided to provide a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on September 23, 2020. Ms. Whetzel provided a newsletter as a portion of the presentation. The Committee is interested in providing information that may assist citizens with access to broadband during the pandemic, as well as what citizens can do to help with getting better access to broadband within the community. Ms. Whetzel will work to draft a newsletter based on this feedback.

Old Business

None

New Business

The Committee congratulated Ms. Carter on her appointment to the FCC's Intergovernmental Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee provides guidance, expertise, and recommendations to the Commission on a range of telecommunication issues for which local, state and tribal governments share responsibility or administration with the Commission. Ms. Carter's first meeting on the Advisory Committee is September 22, 2020.

It was noted that BARC is working with the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission on some Federal projects.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held September 24, 2020 at 7 pm in a format to be determined. With no further discussion by the committee, the meeting adjourned.