



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

Thursday, September 24, 2020 7:00 pm
In Person and Via Electronic Means Due to COVID-19

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mr. Henderson, Pastures 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: Mr. Powell, Middle River District
Ms. Thornton, North River District
Mr. Lawhorne, Riverheads District

VIRGINIA: At the regular meeting of the Augusta County Internet Initiative (Broadband Committee) held on Thursday, September 24, 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.

Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes from the August 27, 2020 meeting 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 conveyed an e-mail of appreciation to the Committee from a County resident.

Ms. Whetzel presented a draft of How Can You Help and Legislative information for the website. Committee noted to soften wording in How Can You Help section and add direct links to each legislator in the Legislative section. A link to the Internet survey should be added to the webpage.

Matters to be Presented by the Committee

Mr. Lawhorne and Mr. Henderson made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on September 23, 2020. Ms. Carter thanked them for their “wonderful articulate job of laying groundwork”, Mr. Lawhorne with the data to better understand the need and Mr. Henderson with the global summary of challenges faced in providing service to everyone. Mr. Henderson noted that the next presentation should reflect the solutions to providing service throughout the County.

Ms. Carter provided an update from her first FCC’s Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meeting on September 22, 2020. Broadband connectivity is a U.S. problem. They mentioned a universal service fund auction for defined areas (Census blocks) that providers can bid for the underserved areas. Ms. Carter was appointed to the Telehealth group of the Committee. The FCC is working to improve the value of the data provided in the annual provider reporting process.

Ms. Carter noted that the School Board Chairman reached out to staff to learn about the Broadband Committee and to express the School Board’s willingness to assist as needed.

Ms. Carter has been meeting with area providers and agencies regarding broadband, including a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mr. Carter requested a contact list for the Committee.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held October 22, 2020 at 7 pm in a format to be determined. With no further discussion by the committee, the meeting adjourned.