

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 12:30 P.M., IN ROOM B-75 LOCATED IN THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN STREET, ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA.

THERE WERE PRESENT:            Nick Mitchell  
   Ronnie Mitchell  
   Lorie Smith  
   Tim Tatum  
   Ronnie Thompson  
   Tommy Cundiff

ABSENT                                    Mike Carter

OTHERS PRESENT:                Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator  
   Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator  
   Steve Sandy, Assistant County Administrator  
   Jim Guynn Jr, Legal Counsel  
   Madherleyn Torres, Clerk

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Mr. Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator, called the meeting to order.

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**CHAIRPERSON NOMINATIONS**

Mr. Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator, opened the floor for nominations of 2023 Authority Chairperson.

Lorie Smith        Nominated by: Tim Tatum and Ronald Mitchell

**RESOLUTION #01-01-2023**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to close the floor for nominations of 2023 Authority Chairperson.

MOTION BY:                    Tim Tatum  
SECONDED BY:                Ronald Mitchell  
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:  
AYES: Cundiff, N. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson  
ABSENT: Carter

**RESOLUTION #02-01-2023**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to elect Mrs. Lorie Smith as 2023 Chair of the Broadband Authority.

MOTION BY:                    Tim Tatum  
SECONDED BY:                Ronald Mitchell  
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:  
AYES: Cundiff, N. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson  
ABSENT: Carter

\*\* Roll call vote was taken \*\*

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**VICE-CHAIRPERSON NOMINATIONS**

Chair Smith opened the floor for nominations for 2023 Vice-Chairperson.

Mike Carter                      Nominated by: Tim Tatum and Nick Mitchell

**RESOLUTION #03-01-2023**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to close the floor for nominations of 2023 Authority Vice-Chairperson.

MOTION BY:                      Tim Tatum  
SECONDED BY:                  Tommy Cundiff  
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:  
AYES: Cundiff, N. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson  
ABSENT: Carter

**RESOLUTION #04-01-2023**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to elect Mr. Mike Carter as 2023 Vice-Chairperson of the Broadband Authority.

MOTION BY:                      Tim Tatum  
SECONDED BY:                  Nick Mitchell  
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:  
AYES: Cundiff, N. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson  
ABSENT: Carter

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**BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATES**

STEVE SANDY – ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Sandy provided the Authority updates on the broadband projects. He informed the Authority that he is working on four (4) leases on existing county sites.

Mr. Sandy stated he met with Mr. Anthony Smith of Blue Ridge Towers at the Westlake Tower site. The tower still needs power. Mr. Smith is working with Rock Outdoors to get power to the tower. Mr. Smith signed the documents and is waiting on AEP to finish the work. Mr. Smith has a few trees to plant and stumps to burn, which should be done late this week or early next week. Rock Outdoors has provided Mr. Smith permission. Mr. Sandy informed the Authority that once the Westlake tower is completed the VATI 2020 grant can be closed. He stated Verizon will be installing its equipment on the top of the Westlake tower this spring.

Mr. Sandy stated the 2021 Shentel contract was signed today; the project will be underway. This project will serve 500-600 homes. He stated that much of the engineering is done allowing Shentel to start the project quickly.

Mr. Sandy stated there has been a design change on the 2022 VATI grant. Shentel has started small parts of the project and is expected to begin a larger expansion once the engineering is done.

Mr. Sandy stated RiverStreet is waiting on engineering, and on APCo which require SCC approval before they can begin work. He informed the Authority that a letter has been sent to the General Assembly asking them to make appointments to the SCC.

Mr. Sandy stated no information has been received on the 2023 VATI award notification. He informed the Authority the Broadband Authority Council has a meeting scheduled on Friday, he hopes something will come out of the meeting. He will inform the Authority once we receive a notification.

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**COMMENTS OF AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

Authority member Ronald Mitchell asked about leases. Mr. Sandy stated they are reviewing leases on the Snow Creek and Sontag tower sites; Verizon on Snow Creek and US Cellular on Sontag. He indicated Verizon seems confident but is not sure yet about US Cellular. He believes it will happen but it may be a matter of timing.

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**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**(RESOLUTION #05-01-2023)**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

MOTION BY: Ronald Mitchell  
SECONDED BY: Tim Tatum  
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:  
AYES: Cundiff, N. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson  
ABSENT: Carter

*Chair Smith adjourned the meeting to the Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:30 p.m.*