

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022, AT 12:00 P.M., IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROOM LOCATED IN THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN STREET, ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA.

THERE WERE PRESENT: Mike Carter
Tommy Cundiff
Leland Mitchell
Lorie Smith
Tim Tatum
Ronnie Thompson

ABSENT: Ronald Mitchell

OTHERS PRESENT: Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator
Michael Burnette, Assistant County Administrator
Steve Sandy, Assistant County Administrator
Madeline L. Sefcik, CMC, Clerk

Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator called the meeting to order.

NOMINATIONS OF 2022 BROADBAND AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN

(RESOLUTION #01-01-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to appoint Leland Mitchell as the 2022 Franklin County Broadband Authority Chairman.

MOTION BY: Ronnie Thompson

SECONDED BY: Tim Tatum

VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Carter, Cundiff, L. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson

ABSENT: R. Mitchell

NOMINATIONS OF 2022 BROADBAND AUTHORITY VICE-CHAIRMAN

(RESOLUTION #02-01-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to appoint Lorie Smith as the 2022 Franklin County Broadband Authority Vice- Chairman.

MOTION BY: Tim Tatum

SECONDED BY: Mike Carter

VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Carter, Cundiff, L. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson

ABSENT: R. Mitchell

SETTING OF 2022 BROADBAND AUTHORITY MEETING DATES

(RESOLUTION #03-01-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to set the 2022 Broadband Authority Meeting dates at 12:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month before the regular Board of Supervisors Meetings.

MOTION BY: Tommy Cundiff

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

VATI 2020 PROJECT UPDATES

Steve Sandy, Assistant County Administrator spoke to the Authority and gave an update on the VATI 2020 projects.

REQUEST TO ASSIGN OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT FROM BRISNET TO SEIONTEC

Mr. Sandy reported that on December 31, 2021, the County received a letter from John Manning of Blue Ridge Internet Service Company, LLC, (BRISNET), concerning BRISNET's intention to assign its responsibilities and obligations of the Comprehensive Agreement Between the Franklin County Broadband Authority and Blue Ridge Towers, Inc., and Blue Ridge Internet Service Company, LLC (Brisnet) dated July 21, 2020 (Agreement).

Mr. Sandy explained that the purpose of the Agreement was for BRISNET to operate a fixed wireless internet service in accordance with the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant approved in 2020. The letter indicated BRISNET's intentions to assign its responsibilities and obligations of this contract to Seiontec, a Lynchburg, Virginia, telecommunications company.

Mr. Sandy noted that the Agreement allows BRISNET to assign its interests, rights, and obligations under this Agreement, in whole or in part, to any person or entity with the financial ability and technical expertise to exercise its rights and meet its obligations under this Agreement, with the consent of the Authority. BRISNET must request the consent not later than 21 days prior to closing, together with sufficient information for the Authority to assess the proposed assignee's financial ability and technical expertise to exercise its rights and meet its obligations under the assignment, which shall be the sole considerations the Authority shall consider in giving its consent. According to the Agreement, such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, conditioned, or delayed.

Mr. Sandy stated that he and the County Attorney had reviewed the request of BRISNET to assign their responsibilities under the Agreement to Seiontec. Staff believes that Seiontec has the financial ability and technical expertise to exercise its rights and meet its obligations under the assignment. Therefore, staff recommended that the Authority consent to the assignment.

Authority member Smith made a motion, seconded by Authority member Cundiff, to consent to the requested assignment of Briscnet's current responsibilities and obligations under Comprehensive Agreement Between the Franklin County Broadband Authority and Blue Ridge Towers, Inc. and Blue Ridge Internet Service Company, LLC (Brisnet) dated July 21, 2020 (Agreement), as amended, to Seiontec, operating a fixed wireless network known as InfinaSky.

(RESOLUTION #04-01-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to assign the operational agreement from Biscnet to Seiontec.

MOTION BY: Lorie Smith
SECONDED BY: Tommy Cundiff
VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:
AYES: Carter, Cundiff, L. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson

ABSENT: R. Mitchell

Roll Call was taken

Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting