

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021, AT 3:00 P.M., IN THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROOM LOCATED IN THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 104, ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA.

THERE WERE PRESENT: Tommy Cundiff
Leland Mitchell, Chairman
Ronald Mitchell
Lorie Smith, Vice-Chairman
Tim Tatum
Ronnie Thompson

ABSENT Mike Carter

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

Leland Mitchell, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

FIXED WIRELESS PROJECT UPDATES (VATI 2020 PROJECT)

ANTHONY SMITH, BLUE RIDGE TOWERS

Mr. Smith presented the following PowerPoint:



Franklin County Broadband
Progress Report

July 19, 2021



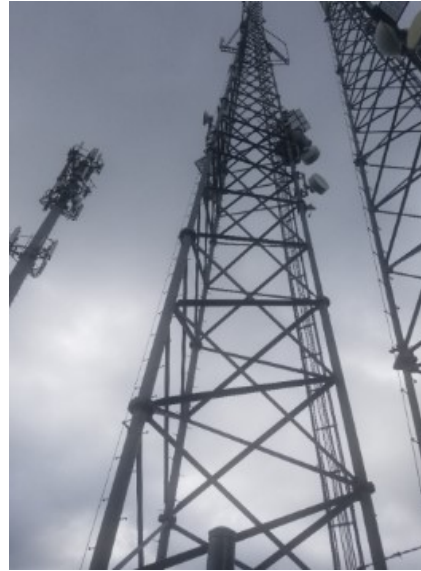
[Scruggs (155' rad)]

- **Site All Completed**
- **BRISCNET On Air**



[Grassy Hill (120' rad)]

- All Completed
- Testing for On Air
- Ready for Customers soon



[Tom's Knob (120' rad)]

- **All Completed**
- **Testing On Air**
- **Ready for Customers soon**



[Industrial Park/Summit View]

- Power On
- Fiber delivered to compound
- All BRT tasks completed
- Equipment to be installed next by BRISNET



[Burnt Chimney (82' rad)]

- Power On
- Fiber completed and working
- Cabinet on site
- All Complete on BRT's tasks
- Briscnet to Install Antennas next



[Snow Creek 195' monopole]

- Tower all Completed
- Final Inspection Completed
- Ready to Turn over to County
- Blue Ridge Towers' tasks all completed
- Ready and awaiting BRISCNET



[Sontag 150' monopole]

- Tower all Completed
- Final Inspection completed
- Power and Fiber on site
- Blue Ridge Towers' tasks all completed
- Ready and awaiting BRISCNET



[Glade Hill Elem School 80']

- Tower all Completed
- Final Inspection completed
- Power and Fiber on site
- Blue Ridge Towers' tasks all completed
- Ready and awaiting BRISCNET



[Henry VFD 195' monopole]

- Civil Construction complete
- Foundation Complete
- Power completed and AEP live
- Fence completed
- Tower Stacking This week



Fork Mountain VFD 195'

- Construction Underway
- Access Road all fixed properly
- Foundation/rebar set
- Installing anchor bolts next
- Site complete ETA 30 days



[Callaway Elem School 195']

- Foundation Complete
- Fence complete
- Power Meter complete, waiting on AEP signed easement
- Fiber underway
- Tower Stack scheduled 2 weeks



Westlake 160' Monopine

- Memorandum of Understanding (Agreement) process underway with FCC and SHPO
- Estimated process to MOA agreement 90 days
- Zoning Approval delayed pending MOU/MOA acceptance first
- Asking VATI for an extension due to MOA process



[Sites On Air NOW]

- Scruggs
- Toms Knob
- Grassy Hill



[Sites On Air Next]

- Snow Creek
- Glade Hill Elem
- Sontag
- Burnt Chimney
- Industrial Park



[Rest of the Sites to follow]

- Henry
- Callaway
- Fork Mountain
- Westlake



JOHN MANNING, BRISNET

Mr. Manning presented the following presentation:

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Supervisor R. Mitchell asked what property was currently hung up with the school's system? Mr. Smith answered the property was the Calloway property. Supervisor R. Mitchell asked if this is something that can happen before the next school board meeting. Mr. Whitlow let the Authority know this is something he will reach out to Dr. Cobbs about.

Supervisor Smith asked Mr. Manning the status of the service and when these services will be up and running. She noted this is something that needs to be addressed and the time that it has taken is unacceptable. Supervisor Smith also asked if the timeframe that is listed in the presentation is hard or if these dates are "soft" days.

Mr. Sandy presented a request from Blue Ridge Towers for a change order for additional fiber costs. Authority requested the matter be tabled until Blue Ridge Towers and Briscnet could provide more information.

(RESOLUTION #01-07-2021)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Broadband Authority to table the requested change order request.

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

VATI Contract Extension

Mr. Sandy presented a request from Blue Ridge Towers and Briscnet to request a 6-month extension of the VATI 2020 Deadline.

(RESOLUTION #02-07-2021)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Broadband Authority to authorize staff to request a 6-month extension of the VATI 2020 deadline of October 15, 2021.

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

DISCUSSION OF 2021 VATI GRANT - STEVEN SANDY & MIKE LOCKABY

Mr. Sandy let the Authority know that they are still working through these applications and are gathering final details on this item. Mr. Sandy noted that the plan is to construct a tower at Windy Gap elementary school and Cahas Mountain in the second round of VATI funding.

2022 VATI GRANT

Mr. Sandy presented preliminary information concerning potential VATI 2022 applications.

Supervisor Smith noted that while looking at the sheet of VATI potential properties if those are not qualified to receive VATI granting she would still like for them to remain on the list of areas to address.

Mr. Sandy requested that the Authority authorize staff to submit the preapplications for seven (7) possible applications.

(RESOLUTION #03-07-2021)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Broadband Authority to submit the preapplications for seven (7) potential VATI projects for 2022.

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

Delegate Poindexter was in attendance and wanted to remind the Authority to be very aggressive while submitting VATI applications because the rules may change during the General Assembly session in August.

COMMENTS BY AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Supervisor R. Mitchell noted that he thinks AARPA money is a great way to improve our infrastructure.

Board of Supervisors work session to immediately follow