

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022, AT 12:00 P.M., IN ROOM B-75 LOCATED IN THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN STREET, ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA.

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

ABSENT: Leland Mitchell
Lorie Smith

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

Supervisor Ronnie Thompson called the meeting to order.

Supervisor Ronnie Thompson informed the authority of the absence of Chairman Leland Mitchell and Vice-Chairman Lorie Smith. The authority acknowledged the need to elect a member to be chairman pro tem.

RESOLUTION # 01-07-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Authority to elect Authority member Thompson as chairman pro tem for today's meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION # 02-07-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Authority to approve the January 14, 2022 and March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

VATI 2020 PROJECT UPDATES

STEVEN SANDY, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BLUE RIDGE TOWERS – ANTHONY SMITH & SEAN CAI
SEIONTEC – DARRELL HAAG (VIA TELEPHONE)

Mr. Sandy gave a brief overview of the VATI 2020 project status and informed the authority that representatives from Seiontec and Blue Ridge Towers would provide an update on their respective projects.

Mr. Haag, Seiontec, spoke to the Authority and gave an update on the fixed wireless build-out and the number of users they have already provided services to in Franklin County. He stated all towers except the Westlake feed are online and active. As of July 15th, they have a total of 350 customer on the system.

Mr. Smith, Blue Ridge Towers, spoke to the Authority and gave an update on tower construction. Mr. Smith, stated that due to setbacks they would be unable to complete the tower by August 15, 2022. He indicated the portion owned and paid for by the County has been 100% completed and the County will not have to provide any additional funding. The tower owned by Blue Ridge Towers will go past the established deadline. Mr. Smith requested a contract extension for completion of the Westlake tower.

RESOLUTION # 03-07-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Authority to grant a contract extension to Blue Ridge Towers for completion of the tower at Westlake with a deadline of September 20, 2022.

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

APPROVAL OF VATI 2022 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH VA DHCD (#VATIGF2022-005)

RESOLUTION #04-07-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to approve the grant funding from VATI in the amount of \$11,832,456 and approve the agreement presented with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the broadband project with Shentel, and authorize the County Administrator to sign the final agreement on behalf of the County upon legal approval by the County Attorney.

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

Roll call vote was taken

APPROVAL OF BROADBAND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SHENANDOAH TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(RESOLUTION #05-07-2022)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to approve the agreement entitled, "Franklin County, Virginia, Franklin County Broadband Authority, and Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC Agreement To Provide Broadband Services Funded In Part By The Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI)" as presented and authorize the County Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the County upon agreement and approval by the County Attorney.

MOTION BY: Mike Carter

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

Roll call vote was taken

APPROVAL OF BROADBAND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WEST PIEDMONT PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION AND RIVER STREET NETWORKS

RESOLUTION #06-07-2022

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Authority to approve the agreement entitled, "Agreement Regarding Installation of Fiber Optic Network and Provision of Internet Access Service" between Franklin County, West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC) and River Street Networks (RSN) and authorize the County Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the County upon agreement and approval by the County Attorney.

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

Roll call vote was taken

DISCUSSION OF VATI 2023 APPLICATIONS

Mr. Sandy spoke to Authority. Stated he will be working with other partners to get service to remaining residents and fine tune application to submit to State. Explained that 100 Mbps is the new standard. Stated there could still be significant projects to submit.

Robert Taylor of River Street Network spoke to Authority. Described their portion of project. Indicated that part of the requirement for federal funding is that they be the last mile provider of service. He gave a brief overview of funding and what may be available.

Amanda Cox of AEP stated they will be hanging the fiber and RiverStreet will be connecting from there.

Comments Of Authority Members

Authority members did not have any additional comments.

Ronnie Thompson adjourned the meeting to the Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:30 p.m.