

Campbell County Broadband Authority Meeting

January 3, 2023

[Available via ZOOM](#)

5:00 PM - Broadband Authority Meeting - Haberer Multi-Use Room

1. Call To Order
2. Election Of Officers, Establishment Of Meeting Schedule
3. Approval Of Minutes

Documents:

[11-15-22.BROADBAND AUTHORITY MINUTES.PDF](#)

4. Project Update - Riverstreet
5. Adjourn To Regular Business Meeting – 6:00 PM

CAMPBELL COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY

November 15, 2022

A meeting of the Campbell County Broadband Authority was held on the 15th day of November 2022 in the Multi-Use Room of the Walter J. Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia. The members present were:

Charlie A. Watts II, Chairman	Brookneal Election District
Kenneth R. Brown	Spring Hill Election District
Justin A. Carwile	Timberlake Election District
Matt W. Cline	Concord Election District
A. Dale Moore	Altavista Election District
Steve W. Shockley	Sunburst Election District

Absent was:

Jon R. Hardie	Rustburg Election District
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Also present were:

Frank J. Rogers, County Administrator
Clifton M. Tweedy, Deputy County Administrator
F. E. "Tripp" Isenhour, III, County Attorney
Paul Harvey, Director of Community Development
Gary Wood, Firefly
Jessica Wilmer and Jamie Dennis, Shentel (via Zoom)
Catherine H. Moore, Clerk

Chairman Watts called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to a meeting of the Campbell County Broadband Authority (CCBA).

// APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Supervisor Shockley, it was resolved the Campbell County Broadband Authority approves the minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Moore, Shockley, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: Hardie

// UPDATES ON COUNTY BROADBAND PROJECTS

Firefly

Gary Wood was present to update the Board on the Firefly project. The Firefly project was one small area of Route 460 in Concord for which they received VATI funds to build. They

had also made a request to Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to assume an area that was supposed to be covered by CenturyLink. CenturyLink has sold its facilities to Brightspeed, and they did contest the award to Firefly. The State was working with Brightspeed, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted that all parties would have to sign that indicates Brightspeed would have to build the project by December 15, 2024. Monthly progress reports would be required. Firefly plans to sign the MOU and reserve funds in case Brightspeed does not perform. To date, Brightspeed has not signed the MOU.

The Firefly project would be built on AEP poles. AEP should have its crews in the County by mid-year in 2023. As soon as the make ready work was completed, Firefly's fiber crews would start. Mr. Wood estimated that work would begin in the 3rd quarter of 2023 and should take a few months to complete. Firefly has sent letters to all affected residents to let them be aware of the work that was coming. AEP has been working with Pike Engineering to do the make ready work, and Firefly also has its own crews out doing field work; residents may see various trucks during this process. Notices would be sent to residents before AEP starts its work, and Firefly will send notices before they start their work. In conclusion, Mr. Wood indicated they did not have any labor or supply chain issues at this time. He understood some of the materials related to underground work may be slow to be received, but they do not have a lot of underground work except at the homes.

Supervisor Moore asked if he could provide his report in writing. Mr. Wood would do several notices in writing to the residents. Chairman Cline appreciated the letters and indicated the citizens were watching this process very closely and were widely anticipating the opportunity to connect to the broadband service.

Administrator Rogers indicated he intended to execute the MOU with Brightspeed on behalf of the County to ensure the VATI funds were not rescinded. If Brightspeed did not complete the work, the project would be awarded to Firefly. Also, the County has a page on its website to post updates on the VATI projects.

Shentel

Jessica Wilmer and Jamie Dennis joined the meeting via Zoom and recapped that their project would serve over 3,500 unserved homes and businesses with funding provided through the VATI grant, Shentel and the County. It was approximately 300 miles of fiber and coax extensions to be built over the next two years. VATI was providing approximately \$6.5 million in funding with Shentel providing \$9.7 million. The cost to Campbell County was around \$931 for each passing. The contracts between the County and Shentel and between the DHCD and Campbell County have all been completed. The project would cover a two-year period beginning September 2022 to September 2024.

Shentel was currently in the engineering phase being performed by their engineers and Precision Valley. Field walkouts were underway to make sure all homes were captured, and 72 miles of design routing had been completed with 52 miles of Primary Permits submitted, most of which were to AEP. Like Firefly, AEP was busy with the make ready work for Shentel. Ms.

Wilmer added they had contracted with a third party to provide some of the engineering work for AEP. The design/engineering work should be completed by the 4th quarter of 2023.

Shentel has divided Campbell County into 19 project areas; 2,300 homes would be provided with new fiber and 1,200 homes would be served by cable plant extensions. When an area was completed, the service would be turned on. Because Shentel had not provided fiber to any homes in Campbell County previously, they selected an area of 2.8 miles along Arrington Drive and Two Bid Road in Evington as a test area. Those homes would be provided free service for 60 to 90 days in exchange for providing test data. Shentel estimated construction to be completed by the 2nd quarter of 2024. Coax extensions should be completed by the 2nd quarter of 2023.

As part of their communications plan, Shentel would notify residents 30 days prior to the start of construction. Three days prior to construction, they deliver door hangers and display signage at intersections. 30 days prior to the service launch of a project area, they send another direct mailer to the homes. The information was also included on their website under www.Shentel.com/VATI. Citizens could use the webpage to search by address.

Administrator Rogers was pleased to see Arrington Drive and Two Bid Road selected as the test area as earlier funding requests for those areas were not awarded. He added he would be discussing with the Board at its organizational meeting in January a meeting schedule for the Broadband Authority.

// ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Carwile, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The vote was: Aye: Brown, Carwile, Cline, Moore, Shockley, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: Hardie

CHARLIE A. WATTS II, CHAIRMAN

Approved: _____