

CAMPBELL COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY

March 5, 2019

The first meeting of the Campbell County Broadband Authority was held on the 5th day of March 2019 in the Board of Supervisors meeting room of the Walter J. Haberer Building, Rustburg, Virginia. The members present were:

Charlie A. Watts II, Chairman, Presiding	Brookneal Election District
James A. Borland	Spring Hill Election District
Bob Good	Sunburst Election District
Eddie Gunter, Jr.	Concord Election District
Jon R. Hardie	Rustburg Election District
Susan R. Hogg	Timberlake Election District
A. Dale Moore	Altavista Election District

Also present were:

Frank J. Rogers, County Administrator
Clifton M. Tweedy, Deputy County Administrator
Catherine H. Moore, Clerk

Administrator Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Campbell County Broadband Authority (CCBA). The first order of business would be to elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The office of the Secretary and Treasurer could be combined and need not be members of the authority.

// Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

Supervisor Good nominated Supervisor Watts as Chairman and Supervisor Hardie as Vice-Chairman of the Broadband Authority.

On motion of Supervisor Gunter, it was resolved the nominations be closed and affirms Supervisor Watts as Chairman and Supervisor Hardie as Vice-Chairman of the Campbell County Broadband Authority.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, it was resolved that Frank J. Rogers, County Administrator, be named as Secretary/Treasurer of the Campbell County Broadband Authority.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// Confirmation of Meeting Schedule

Administrator Rogers requested that the meeting schedule be confirmed acknowledging the CCBA could schedule meetings as deemed appropriate.

On motion of Supervisor Borland, it was resolved the Campbell County Broadband Authority adopts a meeting schedule for the Broadband Authority to meet on a quarterly basis at 5 p.m. before the regular meeting beginning March 5, 2019, and acknowledging the Broadband Authority may schedule additional meetings as necessary.

Before the vote was taken, Supervisor Watts indicated he would like to invite a broadband consultant to meet with the Authority on April 2nd. There were several things he would like to see take place to get the broadband initiative moving. Then, a quarterly meeting would be appropriate.

The vote was: Aye: Borland, Good, Gunter, Hardie, Hogg, Moore, Watts
Nay: None
Absent: None

// NEXT STEPS

The County completed a Broadband Assessment Study in 2019, and in 2010 adopted a Master Plan. There was a discussion of updating the study, and the consensus was not to hire an outside consultant at this time. The Authority would like to spend the next several months gathering information from various sources. Administrator Rogers indicated the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) would provide a free assessment.

Chairman Gunter recognized Thomas Vaughan, owner of Central Technology Solutions, who was in attendance and invited him to share some of his insights.

Thomas Vaughan indicated he was happy to share information with the Board. His company, Central Technology Solutions (CTS), does not provide broadband services, so it would not be a conflict of interest. He commented broadband was akin to having electricity in today's climate. Broadband could mean many things; it could be wireless or wired. Mr. Vaughan suggested as a first step meeting with current providers and the parties who owned the trunk lines (infrastructure) to determine their plans for expanding broadband in the County and to see how the County might assist them. A wired connection would be the most beneficial to allow working from home or taking on-line courses. However, in the more rural areas, wireless may be the best option. Mr. Vaughan just worked with Red Hill to get a fiber connection there and commented that if Red Hill could get fiber, anyone could.

Supervisor Hardie agreed the build out of broadband would be a mixed product with the County helping to facilitate those solutions. Broadband was becoming a necessity for everyday life, just like electricity became a necessity. Supervisor Borland spoke to the 10 year plan for broadband development submitted by Governor Northam and the possibility of localities

participating to receive matching funds. Governor Northam's plan defines high speed internet as having minimum speeds of greater than 10 megabits per second download and one (1) megabit per second upload. Mr. Vaughan indicated those minimum speeds would allow someone to take online classes or work from home.

There was a discussion on next steps of the broadband initiative. There was a consensus for Administrator Rogers to schedule a meeting of the Broadband Authority with subject matter experts. The staff team would also meet with incumbent providers to gather additional information on their future build out plans.

// ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Supervisor Hardie, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

CHARLIE A. WATTS II, CHAIRMAN