

July 26, 2012

Virginia:

AT A REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors at 7:06 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors room located on the second floor of the Nelson County Courthouse in Lovingson, Virginia.

Present: Allen M. Hale, East District Supervisor
Thomas D. Harvey, North District Supervisor -Chair
Thomas H. Bruguire, Jr. – Vice Chair
Constance Brennan, Central District Supervisor
Larry D. Saunders, South District Supervisor
Stephen A. Carter, County Administrator
Melissa Thompson, Acting Deputy Clerk

Absent: Candice W. McGarry, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk

I. Call to Order

Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm, with five (5) Supervisors present to establish a quorum.

- A. Moment of Silence
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Supervisor Bruguire led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. Public Comments

Chairman Harvey opened the Public Comment session. There were no comments and the session was closed.

III. New/Unfinished Business

- A. Approval of Gladstone Fire & Rescue Service to Provide Basic and Advanced Life Support Services in Nelson County (**R2012-55**)

Chair Harvey asked Phil Payne, County Attorney, if the resolution could be back dated saying it was an oversight on the part of the Board as the Gladstone Fire & Rescue Service has been operational. Mr. Payne stated that only the structure had been changed. Chair Harvey stated that he believed the organization had been dissolved. Mr. Carter, County Administrator, stated that the state inspection was scheduled for August 1, 2012. He further stated that that inspection was not necessary to make the resolution retroactive. Mr. Carter stated that it was his understanding that Gladstone and OEMS (Office of Emergency Medical Services) was requesting local government approval so that ALS (Advanced Life Support) services can be provided. There was discussion between Chair Harvey and Mr. Payne concerning whether or not a new organization had been formed verses a restructuring.

Mr. Saunders then moved to approve Resolution **R2012-55**, Approval of Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service to Provide Basic and Advanced Life Support Services in Nelson County and Ms.

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Brennan seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Supervisors voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION R2012-55
NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APPROVAL OF GLADSTONE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE TO PROVIDE
BASIC AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES IN NELSON COUNTY

WHEREAS, Section 15.2-955 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires local governing body approval of any emergency medical service organization operating within that locality; and

WHEREAS, Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service has appeared before the Nelson County Board of Supervisors to request approval to provide Basic and Advanced Life Support services within designated boundaries within the county; and

WHEREAS, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors has determined it to be in the best interest of the citizens of Nelson County for Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service to provide these services;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Nelson County Board of Supervisors grants approval for Gladstone Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service to provide these services and obtain an agency license per approval of the Office of Emergency Medical Services of Virginia.

IV. Broadband Infrastructure Project Work Session

Ms. Jennifer Bowers continued to lead the Broadband work session that was started during the Broadband Authority meeting. Supervisor Bruguiere asked Ms. Bowers if she knew how many jobs had to be created per the Broadband grant. Mr. Carter stated the numbers of jobs was 12 and that those jobs had been filled. Supervisor Hale asked what the circles represented on the maps Ms. Bowers had presented. Ms. Bowers stated that the circles represented a three mile signal radius. Mr. Michael Bowers stated that the three miles was an approximation of what you might see in flat conditions as it was difficult to capture the terrain of the mountains on a map. Supervisor Hale asked about fiber optic cable running along the Southern Railroad. Mr. Bowers stated that all fiber optic cable in the County had been explored and that the only carrier willing to lease connectivity at this point was Comcast.

Supervisor Bruguiere asked if there is a possibility of connectivity with the High Top tower. Mr. Bowers stated that the tower is only 60 feet and that you cannot see the Massies Mill area. He further stated that the tower would need to be at least 90 feet. Mr. Payne stated that it was not likely that the High Top tower would be allowed to be extended to 90 feet because the property easement was old and there was no legal document. Mr. Carter stated that the Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation were not in favor of the extension. He also stated that broadband connectivity was not likely on the State Police tower in that same area. Mr. Bowers stated that it would not be impossible to use the 60 foot tower for some limited relay purposes.

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Ms. Bowers said that as Supervisor Hale has suggested, the Shipman area was being looked at. She also stated that the distance to the Rockfish Valley Community Center was about 3200 feet from the backbone and that she hoped that site would be reconsidered. Chair Harvey stated that the project had not been kicked out but that the County had to complete what was started and then determine other locations based on remaining funds. Supervisor Brennan pointed out how close the community center is to the Martin's Store tower location for wireless connection.

Ms. Bowers stated that the maps were being left for the Board as a planning tool. She reminded the Board that the permitting process was very long and that good planning was the key. Ms. Bowers complemented the Board on being proactive on the fiber optic project.

Supervisor Brennan asked if the project was on time and Ms. Bowers responded yes, even though rock has made the installation challenging at times. Supervisor Brennan asked how much better it was to have fiber to your home rather than using a communication tower. Ms. Bowers stated that fiber moves a signal very fast and is gated therefore, providing a more secure service. She continued to state most people find the towers adequate but it is less secure. Mr. Bowers added that weather can cause the loss of quality of a signal. Supervisor Bruguere asked if a wireless connection would be as fast as DSL. Mr. Bowers stated that the connection would be comparable. He also stated that if you were within two miles of where the DSL signal was being sent out it tended to be more reliable. Ms. Bowers stated that DSL was very expensive to deploy.

Supervisor Hale stated that it was incumbent to move forward on the rates. Ms. Bowers stated that the service providers could not sign agreements until rates were established.

V. Adjournment

At 8:15 pm, Supervisor Saunders moved to adjourn the Board of Supervisors meeting and Supervisor Hale seconded the motion. There being no further discussion Supervisors voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the motion and the meeting adjourned.