

August 22, 2013

Virginia:

AT A REGULAR MEETING of the Nelson County Broadband Authority Board at 6:00 p.m. in the General District Courtroom located on the third floor of the Nelson County Courthouse.

Present: Thomas D. Harvey, North District – Chair
Allen M. Hale, East District
Alan Patrick, Central District
Larry D. Saunders, South District – Vice Chair
Thomas H. Bruguere, Jr. West District
Stephen A. Carter, County Administrator
Candice W. McGarry, Secretary
Debra K. McCann, Treasurer
Phillip D. Payne, IV – County Attorney
Susan Rorrer, Director of Information Systems

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm with all members present to establish a quorum; including Mr. Alan Patrick appointed to represent the Central District.

II. Public Comments

There were no persons wishing to be recognized for public comments.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Resolution – R2013-11 Minutes for Approval

Mr. Hale noted a minor correction to the minutes which was noted by Ms. McGarry and he then moved to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Bruguere seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Members voted unanimously (5-0) by roll call vote to approve the motion and the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION R2013-11
NELSON COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY
APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
(June 27, 2013)**

RESOLVED, by the Nelson County Broadband Authority that the minutes of said Authority’s meeting conducted on **June 27, 2013** be and hereby are approved and authorized for entry into the official record of the Broadband Authority’s meetings.

August 22, 2013

IV. New/Unfinished Business

A. Broadband Infrastructure Project Update

Mr. Carter reported that staff was working on the grant closeout documentation with NTIA. He added that the grant was scheduled to close out by September 30, 2013 however staff may request a sixty (60) day extension to ensure all of the documentation could be timely filed. He noted that this was due to NTIA and not the County. Mr. Carter then advised members that the County had actually over-reported on its part which may require other documents to be submitted.

Mr. Carter then reported that the staffs' emphasis of work has been to get closure on the contracts with the local WISP and Cellular companies on two of the towers - the Rockfish Fire Department and Martin's Store locations. He added that the Cellular provider interest had come fast and this could happen in the next week.

Mr. Carter noted that the fiber network had been working well. He noted that the fiber installation company CCTS had mobilized to begin installing the fiber extension to Paul's Creek subdivision and contiguous properties to make approximately 18 connections. He added that County staff was working with BRI on developing financial reports and he anticipated giving monthly financial reports starting next month.

Mr. Carter then reported that he had spoken to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) about applying for another innovation grant and the County was encouraged to do so. He noted that staff would start the process ASAP and that the County would like to use the grant funds to extend the network fiber to Route 664 and to the County line at the Northern end to Route 250.

Mr. Carter then reported that the Shentel agreement and the MBC collocation agreement were in process. He added that staff was working with AEP on a pole attachment agreement and it was close to being finalized.

Mr. Hale then confirmed that the power poles in Lovington would be used and that the ball was in AEP's court.

Mr. Patrick then inquired as to whether or not the County would use the costs associated with the current project to determine the proposed extension costs for the DHCD grant and Mr. Carter advised that CCTS had provided a cost estimate including permits for about \$200,000 so the County just needed the funding to proceed. He added that the County would work with those along the proposed extension route to gain support for application.

B. Network Operator Report - Blue Ridge Internetworks (BRI)

Mr. Baylor Fooks of BRI reported the following:

Operations:

As of the report there were 28 total active circuits with BRI having 26, Shentel 1, and Nelson County 1. He added that there were 19 circuits under construction and 4 quotes pending approval.

August 22, 2013

Administration:

Mr. Fooks noted that the VDOT permit for the build at Paul's Creek Subdivision was received on August 13, 2013 and construction was to begin next week. He noted that the new equipment for this had been received and would be installed in the Martin's Store HUT on August 27, 2013. Mr. Fooks then advised the Members that they were working on organizing groups to pay for the fiber route expansion on Route 151 and that there was a lot of interest on the southern end.

Financial:

Revenues:

Mr. Fooks noted that the Authority was approaching revenues of \$3,000 per month and was generating \$2,500 in recurring service fees. His report noted that the total accrued revenues from January to July were \$33,278. He noted that many customers were choosing no discount and no amortization of the installation costs. He noted that 100% of the construction for the LOCKN festival at Oakridge had been paid which helped to preserve the Authority's funds allocated for construction.

Mr. Fooks then noted that they were in a period where the fiber installation company, CCTS, was backed up a little bit and installations were taking longer between receipt of the quote and construction.

Mr. Bruguere inquired as to the likelihood of the Stoney Creek residents who have DSL switching to the fiber if it were extend to Rt. 664 even though it may be faster. Mr. Fooks noted that the fiber would be faster but the residents there were served by DSL and were not clamoring for it. He added that they get more calls for service from those at the top of the mountain. He noted that DSL was about 15 MB slower than a fiber connection and that 10 MB usually would not present problems for the user unless they were running a home business.

Mr. Fooks noted that Devil's Backbone was clamoring to get fiber and he reiterated that there was a lot of interest south of Nellysford. Mr. Patrick noted that he was told that if he was not taking his DSL connection with him when he moved that he would have to wait to get it again. Mr. Fooks advised the members that revenue could be generated in Nellysford due to the density there and that they could do a mailing to find out what the interest was.

Mr. Harvey noted that he would rather branch out to unserved areas of the county than go into an area already served. Mr. Patrick suggested that going into Nellysford and to Route 664 may provide an opportunity for growth there for lots that were not moving. Mr. Fooks confirmed that realtors were interested in where this was going because it was changing property values.

Accounts Receivable Aging Summary:

Mr. Fooks reported that current accounts receivable were \$7,120.97 and accounts receivable 1-30 days old were \$1,405.55. There were no accounts receivable reported being older than 30 days old.

August 22, 2013

V. Other Business (As May Be Presented)

Introduced: Communications Towers

Mr. Carter reported that for the NTIA grant application, the financial pro-formas had to be re-proven and that the financials projected cellular carriers being on the towers but not until year three. He added that it would really help financially to get them and the WISP on the towers as soon as possible.

Adjournment

At 6:25 pm, Mr. Hale moved to adjourn and Mr. Saunders seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, members voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the motion and the meeting adjourned.