

7 March, 2016

To: Board of Supervisors
 From: S. Carter, County Administrator
 Re: County Administrator's Report (March 8, 2016 Meeting)

1. Courthouse Project Phase II: Jamerson-Lewis is working towards the construction of the building expansion on the north side of the Courthouse (facing the parking lot and adjacent to the Clerk's office). No major concerns or issues to report. Receipt of a quotation on the equipment for the Clerk's office is pending but anticipated this week March 7 - 11).

2. Broadband: Phase 1 of the middle mile fiber optic network expansion is in progress with approximately 2.5 miles of conduit installed. Completion of Phase 1 is anticipated by the end of March and not later than mid-April (weather dependent). Phases 2 and 3 will follow the completion of Phase 1.

The Broadband Strategic Planning Project is also in progress. The most recent project meeting with Design Nine was conducted on 2-26 (with Messrs. Hale and Strong of the NCBA in attendance). Subjects discussed at the meeting included: Network build-out plan, revising the network's rate structure and strategies related to network expansion.

3. BR Tunnel: VDOT staff have recently advised that a decision on full funding of the Tunnel Project may be completed within the ensuing 2-3 weeks (no specific timetable was provided by Department staff). Woolpert staff are working on the required project submittals to VDOT to enable the project to be authorized for construction bidding. A meeting with Woolpert staff is pending (coordination of the meeting date is in progress).

4. Lovington Health Care Center: A communication from Valley Care Management was received on 2-26 indicating the company's continued interest in the facility. County staff responded with a request for VCM to submit its business plan (including financial plan) for ownership/operation of the center for review by County staff. VCM responded that the information would be submitted but receipt is pending. A tour of the center was also conducted on 2-3 with Architectural Partners (J. Vernon), Supervisors Brennan and Saunders and County staff (Carter and Truslow). The purpose was for AP to complete a visual review of the facility for possible re-use of the center by the County (offices or other). AP will complete and submit a report (pending) on its observations (the facility's construction drawing were previously provided to AP for review), including very preliminary cost estimates.

5. Radio Project: (Taken from Dept. of Information Systems Report) The County has approved the final project milestone for the radio system and final payment will be made in March.

Black and Veatch is working to obtain the necessary radio frequency licenses for the Digital Vehicular Repeater Systems for Rockfish, Wintergreen and Montebello. The purchase and installation of the DVRS' will be completed as quickly as possible.

Representatives from the County, Motorola, Black and Veatch and Virginia State Police met at the Bear Den Mountain tower site on March 2nd to conduct a site survey. Information gathered during the survey will be utilized in evaluating the County's options for implementing a radio communications site at this location. Motorola is currently working on an assessment and will provide the County with information, recommendations and budgetary pricing. It is estimated that

they will complete the assessment within the next three to four weeks. The team also conducted site surveys at an existing cell tower site on Afton Mountain, the Rockfish Fire Dept. tower site and the Martin's Store tower site. The Rockfish site will be evaluated as a second choice site if the Bear Den site does not work.

Augusta County has made a formal request to collocate on the County's Devils Knob tower site. A draft lease document is being prepared for consideration by the Board.

6. CDBG Grant Application for Sewer Extension (Nellysford – Aqua VA to Wild Wolf Brewery): In order to proceed with the grant project, the scope of the project will have to be expanded and will, thereby, increase the project's expense. Additional steps include completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to provide for the design of the sewer extension (to encompass increased capacity for all possible connections located along the proposed extension area) and an estimate of the projected construction expense. Also, income surveys of the project area will also be required to determine eligibility of any resident interested in connecting to the system (owned by Aqua VA). Additional negotiations and an agreement with Aqua VA will also be required. In recognition of these additional requirements, County staff met on 2-26 with the owner of Wild Wolf Brewery to discuss the feasibility of continuing the grant initiative, which will require greater expense and matching funding than initially projected. WWB's owner agreed that continuing the project was not feasible and advised County staff that WWB was working again towards an onsite solution to be approved by VDH. **Given the project's expanded scope and expense, which will increase from the original estimate, and WWB's recognition of these factors, staff's recommendation is for the Board of Supervisors to authorize rescinding the grant application with VA-DHCD.**

7. FY 16-17 Budget: Work is nearly completed on the draft FY 16-17 Budget. Pending are the outcome of the State's Biennium Budget (the Gen. Assembly Session is scheduled to be completed on 3-12) and the School Division's formal budget request (which may not be received until after 3-24). Staff is, however, ready to begin budget work sessions with the Board and proposes the initial meeting be scheduled for 3-17. Should the Board decide to defer scheduling the initial work session (as Mr. Hale will not be available the week of 3-14 or 3-21) until the last week of March or into early April, a decision will need to be expeditiously completed on setting property tax rates. Staff's work to date does not include any tax rate adjustments. However, subject to the Board's initial review, the current working draft budget contains less financial ability/flexibility than in previous fiscal years.

8. Department Reports: Included with the BOS agenda for the 3-8-16 meeting.

