

VIRGINIA: A MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2012 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURTROOM OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER.

PRESENT: JUDY S. LYTTLE, CHAIRMAN
JOHN M. SEWARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN
ERNEST L. BLOUNT
KENNETH R. HOLMES
GIRON R. WOODEN, SR.
TYRONE W. FRANKLIN

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. RHONDA R. MACK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
MS. TERRI HALE, FINANCE DIRECTOR

I. Call To Order

The meeting of the Surry County Broadband Authority was called to order by Mrs. Judy S. Lyttle.

II. Unfinished Business

None.

III. New Business

A. **Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Blount moved to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2011 meeting. Mr. Seward seconded the motion. All present voted in favor.

B. **Status Update: Broadband Implementation Project, Phase One** Ms. Rhonda Mack reported that construction on the Broadband Implementation Project is about to commence. With regard to job creation goals as prescribed in the DHCD grant, 27 of the required 31 jobs have been created to date. Ms. Mack also reported that Mr. Mike Gregory of Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative (BIT) was no longer with the

company and that their project in Surry County had earlier been reported to be complete by March. This information may be subject to change as the BIT portion of the project is now reported to be significantly behind schedule.

Ms. Mack stated that Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC) has received approval of their Environmental Assessment and has received approval by VDOT. Construction on their portion of the County-wide project is expected to commence in April. The County's consultants, IKON Engineering had been asked by VDOT to revise the fiber route; those plans will be revised and re-submitted this week, Ms. Mack reported. She further stated that relations with MBC continue to be good.

Ms. Mack reported that discussions had been initiated with the School System with regard to their request that the fiber route be extended to the school complex and explained that MBC would have fiber in the vicinity of the schools. MBC will not be a direct service provider, however, and the School System has expressed a desire to work directly with the County regarding broadband service. Ms. Mack stated that she was hopeful that purchasing agreements that the Board of Supervisors had previously approved should result in a cost savings and may provide financing to extend the County's fiber to the school complex.

Mr. Mike Eggleston (Dendron District) asked if three new wireless towers were necessary to the County's Broadband Implementation Plan. Ms. Mack responded that there would be three new towers built because of required specifications and the need for the County to own the towers. The County will then be able to lease space on the towers to other providers and will open bid solicitation for access to the County's infrastructure at a later date.

Mr. Franklin suggested that Ms. Mack invite representatives from BIT to attend the next meeting of the Broadband Authority to provide an update on their activities in Surry County.

Ms. Mack further reported that the County's portion of the overall project was on schedule and that only 2% of project funding (\$18,361.00) had been expended to date.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Seward made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wooden and approved by all members present.