



**Lancaster County Broadband Authority**  
**Minutes of Board Meetings**  
**March 18 and 25, 2020**

**1. Call to Order & Approval of Minutes:** The regularly scheduled meeting opened at 4:30 p.m. in the public meeting room of the County Administration Building. Margie Armen, Kevin Bean, Gary Silverman and Mark McKercher were present and Cassie Thompson participated by telephone. Bob Westbrook attended as a guest. There were no minutes presented.

**2. Discussions:**

- a) Bob informed us because of coronavirus, the County Administration Building will be closed to the public but that we can continue to have access for public business if we need to. He also said that the budget meeting, previously scheduled for March 26 would be postponed until sometime in April.
  
- b) We generally discussed the situation with the Dominion Energy Pilot Project. At our meeting on March 12, Dominion offered a Memorandum of Understanding to participate in a regional pilot project under which Dominion's selected contractor, All Points Broadband, would gather information to design and estimate the cost of a broadband network that would run off of fiber installed by Dominion to service its substations. The MOU outlined the first 2 phases of this project, which would also include Dominion petitioning the State Corporation Commission for approval to bring in excess fiber and to share that with All Points. At the end of Phase 2, (about June of 2021), All Points would inform the signatories how much the system would cost and either get their commitment to pay or allow them to drop out with no penalty. By signing the MOU, however, the participants agree not to engage in any broadband-related activity for the duration of their participation. The deadline to sign the MOU is April 1 (The last day to submit ReConnect grant applications is March 31). Westmoreland, Northumberland and Richmond Counties have signed the MOU, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative signed at its Board meeting today, and King George is expected to sign soon.

For us, signing would mean dropping our RUS ReConnect grant application, which has taken a significant investment of time and money to prepare. It also means giving up the opportunity to build a publicly-owned system that will provide service to all unserved residents and bring a revenue stream to the County that will both allow a self-sustaining business and also repay the County's investment over time.

We recognize the significant benefit of a truly regional solution to the broadband deployment problem, and we recognize that we may not be selected for the ReConnect grant. For this reason, after a full discussion of the issues, we agreed to ask Dominion

and All Points to waive the “non-compete” provision in the contract. If that were done, we would be in a position to sign the MOU while still pursuing our grant application.

Margie will prepare a letter to Dominion, stating our position and asking for their cooperation.

- c) With that decision made, we agreed to make one final review of the ReConnect application and when that is complete to direct Don Gill to submit the application. Mark proposed a motion to that effect. The vote was unanimous for submission at the earliest possible moment. Cassie Thompson did not vote, but stipulated that she would have also approved the motion.
- d) Cassie will draft an article for the Rappahannock Record with information about our grant application and the situation with Dominion.
- e) Gary has scheduled a meeting with Atlantic Broadband on March 25 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss a possible VATI submission. This will be a closed meeting.
- f) Kevin asked for approval to purchase a second Surface Pro laptop to use as our permanent archive. He also asked for approval to purchase software. Both were granted. The total is not to exceed \$2,800.

**3. Schedule next meeting and recess:** The meeting recessed to the call of the Chair at 6:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Authority will be held on April 1, 2020 (probably by telephone or video conference).

**March 25, 2020**

The meeting previously scheduled for this time was cancelled at the request of Atlantic Broadband. It will be rescheduled for April 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary