



Lancaster County Broadband Authority

Minutes of Board Meeting

July 31, 2019

1. Call to Order & Approval of Minutes: The special meeting of the Lancaster County Broadband Authority convened at 4:30 p.m. in the public meeting room at the County Administration Building. Cassie Thompson, David Pere, Kevin Bean, Gary Silverman and Margie Armen were present.

2. Discussions:

Updates of Survey information. Cassie reported that she has manually entered the survey data for over a hundred paper responses, and that several volunteers have helped her do more than a hundred more. She also gave each member a packet of 20 surveys to enter. Right now, we have achieved nearly a 15% response rate and there are more survey responses to be entered. We confirmed the slate of volunteers for the manning the tent at the Friday night concert and Irvington Farmers Market. Margie reported that Tri Star does not have availability on either Saturday the 10th or the 17th. Gary mentioned the outdoor concerts at Belle Isle State Park, where no tent or other equipment would be needed (there are pavilions and picnic tables on the grounds. Gary would also like to get some folks to knock on doors in low response areas of the county.

Margie reported that the postcard mailing would take 8 days to complete and that she was waiting for the estimate/invoice. The second mailing was authorized at the prior meeting.

The September 3 public meeting at the Lancaster Library has been confirmed and all the members of the Project Management Team have been personally invited. So far, only Jimmie Carter and Jack Neal (a new member of the team) have rsvp'd.

Cassie reported that she spoke to Carla Holmes of Woodforest Bank (Walmart lobby bank). There may be an opportunity for synergy with banks to support broadband. Cassie will follow up at the appropriate time.

David introduced Nancy Werner, the General Counsel of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, who called in at his invitation. David asked Nancy to discuss the FCC's current actions including the possibility that they will issue a rule providing that broadband services are not communications services and that state and local governments will have no authority to regulate non-cable services under a CATV franchise, i.e., the "mixed use rule." If this rule is adopted and takes effect it will override any contradictory provisions in existing CATV franchises. Another facet of the potential rule would allow in kind services

provided under a CATV franchise to be deducted from the franchise fee. However, that doesn't affect Virginia where the Communications Sales and Use Tax ended franchise fees in CATV agreements in 2007.

Nancy was frankly surprised by the 30 homes/mile density requirement in VA state law, and pointed out some inconsistency between that provision and federal law requiring that services be provided to all Americans within a reasonable time and that services be provided on a non-discriminatory basis.

We thanked Nancy for her helpful comments and she offered to be of assistance any time.

3. Closed Session

At 5:20 p.m., the Board unanimously approved entering a closed session under VA Code 2.2-3711.29, .32, and 33 to discuss ongoing contract matters. The closed session concluded at 6:30, when each member of the Board certified that only contract matters were discussed and that no action was taken.

4. Action Items

Margie will follow up with BMS about the postcard mailing and deliver materials for use at the concert and farmers market.

Kevin will bring his tent to the concert and David will represent the Authority with his two sons. Cassie will staff the farmer's market on Saturday with Bob Westbrook's tent.

5. Schedule Next Meeting(s) and Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on August 5, 2019 in the public meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary