



Lancaster County Broadband Authority
Minutes of Board Meeting
March 10, 2022
5:00 p.m.
8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster, VA 22503

March 10, 2022

1. Call to Order: Cassie Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the office of the County Administrator. Cassie Thompson, Chérie Kiser, and Dr. Gary Silverman were present. Michele Craddock and Nicholas Pascaretti attended by conference call.

2. Public Comment: Cassie Thompson invited the public to make comments.

There were no public comments. Chuck Rusinak and Wally Dawson had some general questions about SMART Poles and Fixed wireless (CARES projects). We indicated final reports had been submitted and accepted by DHCD. We did not know whether they could be obtained by FOIA from DHCD and we would find out before the next meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes: Dr. Gary Silverman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting. Chérie Kiser seconded the motion. All directors present in person voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 3-0:

- Dr. Gary Silverman – voted in favor of the motion.
- Chérie Kiser – voted in favor of the motion.
- Cassie Thompson – voted in favor of the motion.

5. Discussions:

a. Dr. Gary Silverman provided information on the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP). DHCD has released initial details about LECAP on their website under VATI. In 2021, the General Assembly allocated \$8 million to DHCD to support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents. The Office will be issuing more details regarding program structure in April 2022. While details are still lacking, this appears to be targeting Internet Service Providers (“ISPs”) to help low to moderate income residents pay for the cost of drop connections to their homes. Dr. Silverman has confirmed that All Points Broadband (“APB”) is taking the necessary steps to participate in this program and the LCBA is working to obtain confirmation from Breezeline. Under the LECAP, the cost of drop connections for eligible residents could be reduced significantly. LECAP combined with the Affordable Connectivity Program, which will provide eligible residents with \$30 per month towards their broadband service, will

increase affordable access to broadband services for eligible low-to-moderate income residents of Lancaster County.

- b. Dr. Gary Silverman reported that he continues to monitor the information regarding the APB and Breezeline coverage areas to confirm whether all residents of Lancaster County will have access to broadband through the two projects.
- c. Dr. Gary Silverman reported that each of the Smart Poles is operational through Broadband Telecom Services' ("BTS") wireless service. Additionally, the signs have been ordered for the Smart Poles and is working with a contractor for bollard installation.
- d. Dr. Gary Silverman provided an update on BTS's work on the CARES Act Fixed wireless project. He reported that BTS has enrolled 212 subscribers and is actively marketing its service.
- e. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on the APB/Dominion project status. The project is on schedule with no updates on this project.
- f. Nicholas Pascaretti provided an update on the regional VATI grant project between the LCBA, Breezeline, Caroline, Lancaster, Mathews, and Middlesex counties. The project continues to proceed on schedule. Notice to Proceed has been issued for construction on Teal Drive and Tyler Lane (3 weeks before we anticipated). We received the first invoice from Breezeline for \$19,389.41.
- g. **Closed Session:** At 5:50 p.m., we entered a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) 29, discussion of public contracts. The specific matters discussed were limited to the discussion of public contracts. The closed meeting concluded at 6:05 p.m. Each director certified that the matters specified above were the only matters discussed.

5. Schedule next meeting and adjourned: Dr. Gary Silverman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cassie Thompson seconded the motion. All directors present in person voted in favor of the motion by a vote of 3-0.

- Dr. Gary Silverman – voted in favor of the motion.
- Chérie Kiser – voted in favor of the motion.
- Cassie Thompson – voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15. The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday April 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Office of the County Administrator

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary