

Lancaster County Broadband Authority

Minutes of Board Meeting

April 21, 2021

**April 21, 2021**

**1.** **Call to Order:** Cassie Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Board/Commission meeting room of the County Administration Building. Cassie Thompson, Kevin Bean, Dr. Gary Silverman, Michele Craddock, and Dr. Robert Westbrook were present. Cherie Kiser and Nicholas Pascaretti attended by video conference. Don Gill attended as a guest.

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

Wally Dawson spoke in support of the proposal made by All Points Broadband, LLC at the April 7, 2021 meeting. Mr. Dawson submitted a document containing his comments, which is attached to these minutes.

Charles Rusinak stated that he submitted a letter to the LCBA at its last meeting on April 7, 2021 and asked when the LCBA would respond. Cassie Thompson promptly provided Mr. Rusinak with the response letter from the LCBA. Mr. Rusinak also submitted a document containing his comments. Both letters and Mr. Rusinak’s written comments are attached to these minutes. The LCBA will reply to Mr. Rusinak’s written comments as soon as possible.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the March 25, 2021 and April 7, 2021 meeting minutes were deferred to allow time for comments.

**4.** **Discussions:**

1. Dr. Silverman made a motion to approve the invoice BTS submitted for its GIS mapping work for the grant applications. Kevin Bean seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor of the motion.
2. Cassie Thompson provided an update on the status of the mission statement. The LCBA is working on the mission statement and will finalize it as soon as possible. Dr. Westbrook stated the mission statement is critical because it will guide the LCBA’s decision on the Board of Supervisors proposal to increase the tax rate to fund the expansion of broadband in the County.
3. Dr. Silverman recommended the LCBA join the Fiber Broadband Association (“FBA”). FBA provides advocacy, education and resources to companies, organizations and communities who want to deploy the best networks through fiber to the home, fiber to the business and fiber everywhere. The FBA member benefits includes numerous resources which will benefit the LCBA, such as a newsletter and a marketing toolkit. The government membership rate is $500. The membership will reduce the FBA conference admission cost from $450 to $350. Dr. Silverman made a motion for the LCBA to join the FBA. Michele Craddock seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor of the motion.
4. Dr. Silverman recommended the LCBA attend the annual FBA conference in Nashville, Tennessee in July. The cost and expenses for two attendees is approximately $2,500. Dr. Silverman made a motion to approve the attendance of two LCBA representatives, Nicholas Pascaretti and one director (Dr. Silverman or Kevin Bean) at the FBA conference. Michele Craddock seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor of the motion.
5. **Closed Session**: At 5:10 p.m., we entered a closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A) 29, discussion of public contracts and Section 2.2-3711(A) 33, discussion of confidential proprietary information. The specific matters discussed were limited to the discussion of public contracts and confidential proprietary information. The closed meeting concluded at 6:45 p.m. Each member certified that the matters specified above were the only matters discussed.
6. Kevin Bean made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with All Points Broadband, LLC and Dominion. Dr. Silverman seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor of the motion.
7. Dr. Silverman made a motion to move forward with the VATI grant and the related contract with the participating counties and ABB. Michele Craddock seconded the motion. All directors voted in favor of the motion.
8. Dr. Silverman presented his changes to the presentation he prepared for the Jessie Ball duPont Foundation in light of the APB offer. The presentation included the following proposals: (1) request the foundation contribute $575,000 (the County’s required contribution) to the APB project; (2) build a data center/hut on County property; and (3) fund an interim fixed wireless solution. The directors discussed the merits of the proposals. Cassie Thompson recommended we discuss the proposals with Mark Walker, Director and Senior Program officer for the foundation before finalizing the presentation.

**4. Schedule next meeting and adjourned:** Kevin Beanmadea motion to adjourn the meeting Cassie Thompson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:45. The next regular meeting will be held on May 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary