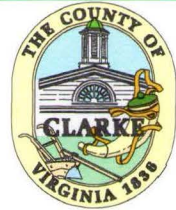


Clarke County

BROADBAND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018



A meeting of the Broadband Implementation Committee was held at the Berryville/Clarke County Government Center, Berryville, Virginia, on Thursday, December 6, 2018.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Robina Bouffault, Mary Daniel, Bev McKay (arrived late)

Absent: Douglas Kruhm

Staff Present: Brandon Stidham, Planning Director; Cathy Kuehner, Public Information Director

CALLED TO ORDER

Mr. Stidham called the meeting to order at 2:19PM without a quorum present. In the absence of a quorum, members present agreed to discuss meeting items for informational purposes and to defer action items until a quorum could be established. Issues discussed were as follows:

- Ms. Kuehner discussed a series of proposed social media messages regarding County broadband efforts that she recommends posting periodically to the County's Facebook page. Members present had no concerns with the proposed messages or with posting them to the Facebook page as recommended by Ms. Kuehner.
- Ms. Kuehner also updated the members present on recent changes made to the County's broadband website (clarkeconnect.org).
- Mr. Stidham informed the members that Staff is currently working with Comcast to file a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant application to extend broadband service to the village of White Post. He said that the application is due by mid-December.
- Members and Staff had a brief discussion regarding the next steps towards adoption of the antenna support structures text amendment.

Mr. McKay arrived at 2:37PM to establish a quorum.

AGENDA

Mr. Stidham reported that Joe Jones (Virginia Air Networks) had a scheduling conflict and would not be able to attend the meeting. He noted that he would try to reschedule an appearance at a future meeting. He added that Virginia Air Networks is based in Strasburg and is expanding into Clarke County with plans to provide 10Mb service to residents.

No items were added to the agenda that was provided by Staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee approved the July 16, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

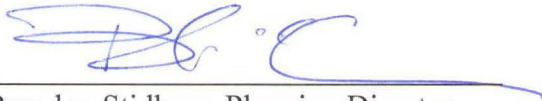
Yes: Bouffault (moved), Daniel (seconded), McKay

No: none

Absent: Kruhm

Members had a brief discussion about funding of future broadband expansion efforts. Ms. Bouffault noted that the County may need to begin funding these efforts, noting that future grant opportunities may require the County to provide matching funding. She added that while the VATI grant provides funding to extend service to a very specific location, the County does not have many similar areas that could be funded in that manner. Mr. Stidham said that partnerships with companies like Comcast should continue to be pursued and that the County could look at whether the sanitary authority model could be used to generate revenue for a broadband project in a specific area. Ms. Daniel said that she thought other counties have used this approach to expand broadband service. She also reported that the Governor is expected to release a broadband expansion plan in the very near future that may include grant programs. Ms. Bouffault said that connecting the last mile to the homes is the biggest challenge. Mr. Stidham suggested monitoring the deployment of 5G service in the next year before determining whether to invest local money in broadband infrastructure.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:45PM.



Brandon Stidham, Planning Director