



**AMHERST COUNTY
BROADBAND AUTHORITY BOARD**



Broadband Authority Board

Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
David W. Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chair
Tom Martin, Director
L. J. Ayers III, Director
Claudia D. Tucker, Director]

MINUTES

April 20, 2021

Administration Building - 153 Washington Street -
Public Meeting Room
Amherst, Virginia 24521
Meeting Convened - 6:30 PM

Clerk
Dean C. Rodgers

Treasurer
Stacey L. Wilkes

County Attorney
Mark C. Popovich

I Call to Order

At a regular meeting of the Amherst County Broadband Authority Board held on April 20, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., the following members were present:

BROADBAND AUTHORITY BOARD:

Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
Tom Martin, Director
Claudia D. Tucker, Director

ABSENT:

David W. Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chair
L. J. Ayers III, Director

STAFF:

Dean C. Rodgers, County Administrator
David R. Proffitt, Deputy County Administrator
Mark Popovich, County Attorney
Regina M. Rice, Clerk

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II Approval of Agenda

By motion of Director Tucker and with the following vote, the Broadband Authority Board approved the agenda of April 20, 2021.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Tucker

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh and Mr. Ayers

III Citizen Comment

Mr. Chad Eby of Amherst, Virginia addressed the Board and thanked CEO Gary Woods of CVEC and the Firefly team for the proposal submitted. He said that broadband is the number one challenge to bring internet to the entire county. Mr. Eby said the schools are the future workforce and it is unfortunate that many children in the county do not have internet and are at a disadvantage. He and the EDA are supporting this project and believes that this will have the greatest impact on all residents of the County.

The Citizen Comment session was closed.

IV Approval of Minutes

A Minutes - February 16, 2021

By motion of Director Martin and with the following vote, the Broadband Authority Board approved the minutes of February 16, 2021.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Tucker

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh and Mr. Ayers

V PPEA Selection Committee

A Approval of Unsolicited Proposal

County Administrator Rodgers addressed the Board and advised the County, having applied for three VATI grants, was unsuccessful in obtaining any of those grants. He informed the Board that Firefly Fiber Broadband is planning to submit an unsolicited proposal to provide fiber to the County. Mr. Rodgers advised the next step is to have him, as the County Administrator, accept this proposal before moving forward. He asked for input from the Broadband Authority Board for approval to go forward with this proposal and put it out to the public to seek other competitive proposals.

Purchasing Agent David Proffitt informed the Board that he would now initiate a process to advertise this proposal (less any proprietary information) to the public for 45 days to seek competing proposals. Once that is complete, a group will be established to evaluate those proposals.

Director Martin asked since the County was unsuccessful in obtaining the previous VATI grants, will nothing be moving forward?

Mr. Rodgers said he met with the VATI folks and received directions to make our application more competitive. He said we will continue to apply for grants and for federal money when that becomes available.

By motion of Director Tucker and with the following vote, the Broadband Authority Board approved the County Administrator's acceptance of the unsolicited proposal from Firefly.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Tucker

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh and Mr. Ayers

VI Matters from Members of the Broadband Authority Board

Chair Moore had no matter to discuss.

Director Martin had no matter to discuss.

Director Tucker had no matter to discuss.

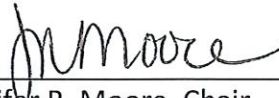
VII Adjournment

By motion of Director Martin and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

AYE: Ms. Moore, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Tucker

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. Pugh and Mr. Ayers



Jennifer R. Moore, Chair
Amherst County Broadband Authority Board



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk