

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, AT 12:00 P.M., IN MEETING ROOM B75 LOCATED IN THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN STREET, ROCKY MOUNT, VIRGINIA.

THERE WERE PRESENT: Mike Carter
Tommy Cundiff
Leland Mitchell
Ronald Mitchell
Lorie Smith
Tim Tatum
Ronnie Thompson

OTHERS PRESENT: Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator
Steven Sandy, Director of Planning & Community Development
Madeline L. Sefcik, Clerk

Leland Mitchell, Chair called the meeting to order.

PROJECT UPDATES - STEVEN SANDY, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Sandy addressed the Authority and gave a brief update on the status of the County's Broadband Projects.

General discussion ensued.

Mr. Sandy presented the Resolution Supporting PPEA Contract Amendment and Use of CARES Act Funding for Last Mile Broadband Deployment with Shenandoah Telecommunications Company, Inc.

(RESOLUTION #01-09-2020)

Resolution Supporting PPEA Contract Amendment and Use of CARES Act Funding for Last Mile Broadband Deployment with Shenandoah Telecommunications Company, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Broadband Authority (FCBA) was established in 2017 to facilitate the provision of affordable high-speed data, internet, and telecommunications services for the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act has provided funding to localities to construct mitigate the impacts of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the extension of "last mile" broadband communications infrastructure in unserved areas of Franklin County will provide opportunities for students to learn remotely and citizens to work remotely, and

WHEREAS, Shenandoah Telecommunications Company, Inc. (Shentel) has proposed five (5) projects for last mile broadband projects that will make broadband services available to up to 6500 homes and businesses including at least 470 student households; and

WHEREAS, the FCBA has an existing Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) contract to partner with Shentel to create a network expansion in Franklin County to provide internet service to citizens and businesses of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, Shentel has agreed to construct the required improvements and before seeking reimbursement from Franklin County for an estimated \$250,000 of CARES funds; and

WHEREAS, Shentel has agreed to complete these projects in accordance with the Federal CARES Act requirements and have these fiber extensions constructed and operational by December 30, 2020

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the FCBA approves and supports the PPEA contract amendment and use of CARES Funds in an amount of up to \$250,000 to extend broadband fiber.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Broadband Authority Chairman, County Administrator and County Attorney are granted the necessary authority to sign all necessary documents to amend the PPEA contract and initiate the fiber extension work with Shentel as set forth above and described in Attachment 1.

On motion of Lorie Smith to adopt the resolution, seconded by Ronnie Thompson, the motion carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Carter, Cundiff, L. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, Smith, Tatum, Thompson

Chairman Mitchell recessed the authority until 1:30 for their regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors Meeting

