

# ROANOKE VALLEY BROADBAND AUTHORITY

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**Frank M. Smith, II, President & CEO**

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## **BOARD MEMBERS:**

*Bob Cowell, City of Roanoke  
Gary Larrowe, Botetourt County  
Mike McEvoy, Citizen  
Daniel R. O'Donnell, Roanoke County  
James Taliaferro, II, City of Salem  
Dr. Scott Midkiff, Virginia Tech  
Keith Perry, Carilion*

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

The September Board Meeting of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority was held virtually on November 20, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. A video recording of the meeting is available.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman McEvoy called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Wayne Strickland, Secretary to the Broadband Authority, called the roll and reported that a quorum was present.

Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority Board Members: *Present:* Gary Larrowe, Botetourt County; Mike McEvoy, Citizen; Dan O'Donnell, Roanoke County, Bob Cowell, City of Roanoke, Jay Taliaferro, City of Salem; Dr. Scott Midkiff, Virginia Tech; and Keith Perry, Carilion.

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Broadband Authority Staff: Frank Smith, Jim Bandy, and Barry Stacy

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Staff: Matt Miller and Wayne Strickland.

Others: Jeff Crowder, Virginia Tech; Sam Darby, Glenn Feldmann Darby & Goodlatte; Jill Loope, Roanoke County Economic Development; Jennifer Eddy, EddyAlexander; and Russell Decker, Segra

**2. Approval of Minutes**

September 18, 2020 Minutes were presented. Dan O'Donnell moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Gary Larrowe. The motion was adopted by a unanimous voice vote of 7-0.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Frank Smith gave an overview of the financial statements for September and October. Bob Cowell moved that the two financial statements be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dan O'Donnell. The motion was adopted by a unanimous voice vote of 7-0:

**4. Chairman's Comments**

- a. Mr. McEvoy gave an overview of the changes to the bylaws. The bylaws now outline the RVBA structure with the inclusion of board members from Virginia Tech and Carilion. The bylaws also outline how a nominating committee will function to appoint non-locality board members. Finally, the bylaws now state the voting requirements for certain actions by the authority board, such as undertaking debt. Roanoke County asked for a redline copy of the bylaws. Gary Larrowe made a motion to accept the bylaws as presented. Bob Cowell made a second. By a unanimous voice vote, the bylaws were accepted.
- b. Mr. McEvoy announced that two new board members are now part of the board and had been introduced at the last meeting.
- c. Additionally, Mr. McEvoy thanked Frank Smith and Jennifer Eddy for participating in a State meeting that received input on broadband funding and legislation.

**5. Project Updates**

Frank Smith presented slides that gave an overview of RVBA activities. Goals of the RVBA focus on access, pricing and innovation. The RVBA has served the community by advancing regional infrastructure in a transparent and financially responsible way while attracting customers and providing carrier grade technology and support. The RVBA has over 100 miles of fiber backbone and has 9 switching centers and 3 colocation centers. The RVBA plans additional work in wireless and FTTH home projects. Mr. Smith then gave an overview of 5G technology at the request of Mr. McEvoy.

**6. Other Business**

Russell Decker said that from his perspective the RVBA has been a good thing for the region to increase competition and help expand affordable broadband.

The next RVBA meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

**7. Request for Closed Meeting**

Dan O'Donnell made a motion to enter into closed session according to Section 2.2-3711.A.33 of the Virginia Code to discuss confidential proprietary information and trade secrets developed by or for a local authority created in accordance with the Virginia Wireless

Service Authorities Act (§ [15.2-5431.1](#) et seq.) to provide qualifying communications services as authorized by Article 5.1 (§ [56-484.7:1](#) et seq.) of Chapter 15 of Title 56, where disclosure of such information would be harmful to the competitive position of the authority. Jay Taliaferro made a second. The voice vote was unanimous, and the closed session was started at 9:08 A.M.

**8. End Closed Meeting and Reconvene Regular Meeting**

Dan O'Donnell made a motion to exit the closed meeting and return to regular session. The motion received a second from Bob Cowell. By unanimous voice vote, the closed session was ended at 9:27 a.m.

**9. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Dan O'Donnell moved for a roll call vote to be taken that only legally exempted matters covered by the closed meeting motion were taken up in the closed meeting. The motion received a second from Bob Cowell. The motion was adopted by a Roll Call vote of 7-0, as follows:

**Member & Vote**

Mr. Cowell – Yes  
Mr. Larrowe – Yes  
Mr. McEvoy – Yes  
Mr. O'Donnell – Yes  
Mr. Taliaferro – Yes  
Mr. Keith Perry-Yes (confirmed via email)  
Dr. Scott Midkiff-Yes (confirmed via email)

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Submitted by:

Wayne G. Strickland  
Secretary to the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority