

ROANOKE VALLEY BROADBAND AUTHORITY

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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 May 2021 Board Meeting of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority was held virtually on May 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. An audio 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, Jay Taliaferro, City of Salem; Dr. Scott Midkiff, Virginia Tech, and Keith Perry, Carilion

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Broadband Authority Staff: Jim Bandy, Olivia Dooley, Tywanii Ross, Frank Smith, Barry Stacy

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

Others: Sam Darby, Glenn Feldmann Darby & Goodlatte; Jill Loope, Roanoke County Economic Development; Jennifer Eddy, EddyAlexander; Jeff Crowder, Virginia Tech; Brent Robertson, City of Roanoke.

2. Approval of Minutes

The March 19, 2021 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 6-0.

3. Treasurer's Report

Frank Smith gave an overview of the financial statements for March and April 2021. Mr. Smith mentioned that the year is going well and on track. Service revenue was 104% in March and by April it was 111%. Dan O'Donnell made a motion to accept the reports. The motion was seconded by Gary Larrowe. The March and April 2021 reports were accepted by a unanimous voice vote of 6-0.

4. FY 2022 Budget

The FY2022 budget was presented by Mr. Smith. He stated that the new budget will be relatively similar to the past budget but with two changes. A full-time equivalent position will be added to support the outside plant operations. Also, a part-time position will be changed to a full-time position. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the budget seems conservative and hopes that new federal and state grant funds will be available next year for additional broadband investments. Mr. McEvoy asked about capital expenditures for next year. Mr. Smith stated that some larger projects are being evaluated in the Tanglewood area and that new partners are coming on board for residential expansions. The network will also need some equipment upgrades next year. Finally, there are some research related projects which may help the community and impact the underserved communities which are reflected in the budget.

Mr. O'Donnell moved to adopt the FY 2022 budget. The motion was seconded by Jay Taliaferro. The motion was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote of 6-0.

Gary Larrowe	yes
Mike McEvoy	yes
Daniel R. O'Donnell	yes
James Taliaferro, II	yes
Dr. Scott Midkiff	yes
Keith Perry	yes

5. Appointment of Secretary

Mr. McEvoy and Mr. Smith thanked Wayne Strickland for his service as Secretary. They also thanked the Regional Commission for its role in helping start the Broadband Authority. Mr. Matt Miller was nominated as Secretary and Ms. Tywanii Ross was nominated to be assistant secretary by Mr. McEvoy. Dan O'Donnell made a motion to approve the two as nominated. The motion was seconded by Jay Taliaferro. The motioned carried by a unanimous voice vote of 6-0.

6. RVBA Project Update

Mr. Frank Smith gave a project update by presenting a slide show. Mr. Perry and Dr. Midkiff are assisting Mr Smith in the development of a strategic plan which will be presented to the board in the fall. The RVBA is focused on Digital Equity and thus, Innovation, Distribution, and Access/Affordability should be focus areas of the RVBA going forward. Carilion Clinic, Virginia Tech and our communities have tremendous strategic value as the RVBA targets digital equity issues. Finally, Smart Communities,

Public Safety and Middle Mile Access are also areas that the RVBA can invest in to address digital equity and improve our communities.

Mr. McEvoy asked Mr. Smith to comment on all the broadband funding that may come through the state. Mr. Smith stated that many rules are still being determined, but there should be opportunities for network expansion into underserved and unserved areas in both rural and urban areas. There should also be opportunities for further partnerships. Mr. Smith also indicated that the State will allow municipal broadband to compete equally for funding. Funds will likely have to be committed by 2024 and completed by 2026 so planning will be important. Mr. O'Donnell asked about a slide in a recent State presentation that stated \$4.3 billion of state funding and \$3.7 billion in local funding would be used for broadband. Mr. O'Donnell wanted clarification if this was additional local funds or if was the state attempting to obligate recently allocated local funds. It was unclear how the state arrived at this \$3.7 billion number.

Mr. Strickland indicated that many federal agencies have funding available for various broadband related programs.

Mr. McEvoy stated that the RVBA will continue work on a VATI grant application this year.

7. Other Business

- a. Mr McEvoy indicated that it is time to review Mr. Smith's performance and he will communicate with other board members on the review process via email. The next meeting will have a closed session to discuss the performance review.
- b. The next meeting will be on-July 16, 2021

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

Submitted by:

Wayne G. Strickland
Secretary to the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority