

# 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

## 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

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**

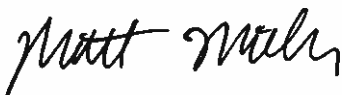
- a. Mr McEvoy indicated that it is time to review Mr. Smith's performance and he will communicate with other board members on the review process via email. The next meeting will have a closed session to discuss the performance review.
- b. The next meeting will be on-July 16, 2021

**8. Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:

Wayne G. Strickland  
Secretary to the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority



Approved July 16, 2021  
Matt Miller, Secretary to the Board