



January 21, 2021

ELECTRONIC MEETING

MODERATOR: KEVIN GENTRY, IT DIRECTOR

Pursuant to the Ordinance adopted by the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2020 to implement emergency procedures to ensure continuity of County government, the following notices are given:

1. All Middlesex Broadband Authority members, staff, and public are attending via electronic communications.
2. All public comments:
 - a. Prior to the meeting, public comments can be:
 1. Emailed to Peggy Jordan, pjordan@mcps.k12.va.us
 2. Mailed to County Administration, PO Box 428, Saluda, VA 23149
 3. Delivered to the County Administration Building (drop box by front door) at 877 General Puller Highway, Saluda, VA 23149
 - b. During the meeting, public comments will be addressed by the Chairman or his designee
3. The public may participate and access the 5:00 p.m. regular meeting by the following:

When: January 21, 2021, 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Middlesex Broadband Authority

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81952339121?pwd=bWQ1OSt3aTJGaE54UjFmNlBCV1BhUT09>

Passcode: 7584330

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) or 888 788 0099 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 880 4512 9446

Passcode: 7584330

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81952339121?pwd=bWQ1OSt3aTJGaE54UjFmNlBCV1BhUT09>

CALL TO ORDER

5:00 P.M

1. Statements from the Public
2. Approval of the Minutes – November 19, 2020 (*pages 3-5*)
3. Approval of Treasurer’s Report (*page 6*)
4. Report of Officers and Staff
5. Information Items:
 - A. CARES Act Broadband project
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Adjourn

Next Meeting Date: February 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. (meetings to be held electronically)

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020, AT 5:00 P.M. ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH ZOOM

Present: John Koontz, Chairman
Carrie Dos Santos, Vice Chairman
Greg Grichtmeier
Chris Henley
Steve Barnette
Kevin Gentry, Executive Director
Peggy Jordan, Secretary/Treasurer
Elizabeth Young, Consultant

Absent: Peter Martin, Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

John Koontz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no statements from the public.

MINUTES

Mr. Koontz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 15, 2020 minutes; there were none.

A Motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Barnette; seconded by Mrs. Dos Santos and carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Koontz asked if there were any additions to the Treasurer's Report presented; there was nothing new to report.

A Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Mrs. Dos Santos, seconded by Mr. Henley and carried unanimously.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

Mr. Gentry reported that complaints had been received from Middlesex citizens regarding service from Atlantic Broadband. Mrs. Lewis had suggested the Board of Supervisors invite a representative from ABB to the next supervisors meeting to discuss concerns. Mr. Gentry did report that it was not the local office of ABB; in fact, they had

been very responsive to him each time he contacted them. This was a problem that needed to be addressed from the corporate office.

Dr. Young questioned if anyone had heard of ABB possibly being up for sale.

Mr. Koontz stated he, Lud Kimbrough, Matt Walker and Shawn from ABB's regional office had been in contact.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Wireless Plan and Budget by Mr. Grichtmeier & Mr. Henley

Mr. Grichtmeier reported that in order to complete this study, they needed a problem to solve which included several houses close together. Mr. Grichtmeier's research in Jamaica has come up short as he couldn't really find a scenario for that opportunity.

Mr. Gentry stated he had a citizen contact him and he would pass along the information to Mr. Grichtmeier and Mr. Henley to make contact with him for a possible opportunity to problem solve.

Mr. Koontz suggested Hillcrest in Wake, as a target to consider for this study. Also, Mr. Koontz urged everyone to email Kevin and him if they wanted to have an area considered as well.

Mrs. Dos Santos questioned if Lover's Lane in Deltaville might be a good place to look at.

Mr. Henley stated 8 of these had been set up across Lancaster County with money from CARES and they seemed to really make a difference.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Update on 4 Counties VATI Application

Mr. Gentry shared there was nothing new to report; no responses and nothing challenged to date.

B. Update on Mathews/Gloucester VATI Application

Mr. Gentry shared there was nothing new to report; no responses and nothing challenged to date. When asked when we might hear something, Mr. Gentry stated it might be by the end of the year, but he would reach out to see if he could get a better estimated date.

C. CARES Act Funding to Fast-Track Potential Broadband Projects

Mr. Gentry reported these projects have to be under \$10,000 and shovel ready to qualify so no new companies would be able to participate. A list was sent to ABB and

they countered with a list of 6 addresses that met that criteria. We are working to get final signatures and submit. Mr. Gentry is hopeful we will hear something in about 2 weeks.

D. Updates to Broadband Projects in the Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Koontz shared that the CIP currently had \$175,000 in it for Middlesex Broadband, however that was placed there when we thought we would have an opportunity to lay down conduit along with the water lines. That project was cost prohibitive so at this point, we really don't need to have a line item that large in the CIP. Mr. Koontz recommended that the authority look at the next five years and plan for improving broadband, to concentrate on grants available and grant writing, and to come up with a budget that included legal and staff costs as part of the plan in order to provide an operating budget for the next five years.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Grichtmeier and Mr. Henley reported on what they had done toward this project. Mr. Henley will reach out to Mr. Dunkel with MCPS to find out if he can borrow boosters to see if they work well enough in the areas not currently served. Dr. Young added we should still be in contact with Starlink to make sure they know we are still interested. It was agreed that maybe we should consider setting aside money to be a Beta tester. Micro ISP's would need to be managed by someone else and not the MBA. Mr. Grichtmeier stated he thought there were grants we could apply for using that technology. Mr. Koontz suggested to put together more information on Micro ISP's on a upcoming meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

It was reported at a Virginia Association of Counties meeting recently that Dominion Energy is partnering with Surry and Prince George counties which may help with broadband.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next meeting set for December 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., by motion of Mr. Henley, seconded by Mr. Grichtmeier; carried unanimously.

John Koontz, Chairman

Expenses Since Last Meeting

1/7/2020	1103 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$93,765.05)
1/7/2020	1104 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$93,515.05)
2/1/2020	1105 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$93,015.05)
2/1/2020	1106 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$92,765.05)
2/4/2020	1107 Reserve Account (Postage)	Postage	19.30	(\$92,745.75)
3/1/2020	1108 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$92,245.75)
3/1/2020	1109 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$91,995.75)
4/1/2020	1110 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$91,495.75)
4/1/2020	1111 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$91,245.75)
5/1/2020	1112 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$90,745.75)
5/1/2020	1113 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$90,495.75)
6/1/2020	1114 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$89,995.75)
6/1/2020	1115 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$89,745.75)
7/1/2020	1116 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$89,245.75)
7/1/2020	1117 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$88,995.75)
7/27/2020	1118 VOID		0.00	(\$88,995.75)
7/27/2020	1119 Broadband Telecom	Grant Services	1,999.00	(\$86,996.75)
7/30/2020	1120 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$86,496.75)
7/30/2020	1121 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$86,246.75)
8/20/2020	1124 Broadband Telecom	Grant Services--VATI	5,000.00	(\$81,246.75)
10/1/2020	1125 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$80,746.75)
10/1/2020	1126 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$80,496.75)
11/1/2020	1127 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$79,996.75)
11/1/2020	1128 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$79,746.75)
11/16/2020	1129 Broadband Telecom	CARES Application	1,500.00	(\$78,246.75)
12/1/2020	1130 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$77,746.75)
12/1/2020	1131 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$77,496.75)
1/1/2021	1132 Kevin Gentry	Director	500.00	(\$76,996.75)
1/1/2021	1133 Peggy Jordan	Secretary/Treasurer	250.00	(\$76,746.75)