

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD ON
THURSDAY, May 15, 2021, AT 5:00 P.M. ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH ZOOM

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

Absent: Peter Martin, Consultant-Absent

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.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Koontz discussed item 2A Fiber to the Home and the MOU needed to move forward with this project. Mr. Koontz asked if Mrs. Lewis has anything to discuss and Mrs. Lewis wanted to point out this MOU is with the Authority and not the County. Also, Mrs. Lewis asked the authority to keep in mind the VATIU project as well so that we could move forward with them together.

A motion to move forward on the MOU with Dominion Energy and All Points Broadband was made by Mr. Barnette, seconded by Mr. Henley.

Discussion included Mr. Chuck Hoggard with Dominion, who stated Dominion did not see any problems with the MOU. Mr. Gentry was asked what the obligation of the MBA would be and he stated it was \$36,000, for a deep dive by Dominion to identify every unserved area and household. This includes passes figured at \$350 per pass, but could be less, depending on how many passes there were. It was asked if the MBA owned the results of the deep dive and it was determined they did because they would be contracting the services for a 12 month period. Also, the Authority will have the chance to review the results to make sure nothing was missed. The VATI application was discussed and it was determined the deadline would be on May 21st and shortly thereafter they would begin to identify where they would be laying fiber. Dominion is on the hook for most of the middle mile and even though some would fall short by as much as a half a mile, many would be right next to the homes.

Mr. Koontz asked for a roll call vote on the Motion: Mr. Henley, AYE; Mr. Grichtmeier, AYE; Mr. Barnette, AYE; Mrs. Dos Santos, AYE and Mr. Koontz, AYE. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Lewis asked for the board to move on the Broadband Partnership Agreement as well.

A motion to move forward on the Broadband Partnership Agreement was made by Mr. Grichtmeier, seconded by Mr. Barnette.

Mr. Koontz asked for a roll call vote: Mrs. Dos Santos, AYE; Mr. Grichtmeier, AYE; Mr. Barnette, AYE; Mr. Henley, AYE; and Mr. Koontz, AYE.

Mr. Gentry updated the Authority on Middlesex Surfs, stated that he had been approached by a citizen interested in using the program to help acquire broadband. Mr. Koontz stated that in the past the program had been underutilized and it was his recollection that there was \$5,000 set aside for it and he was excited to move forward with it. It would be used by citizens that needed a short term, low interest loan to help offset the costs. Dr. Young stated she had the information on the program that was done some time back and if Mr. Gentry didn't have it, she would be happy to share it with him in an effort to move forward with the program.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. VATI Update—Kevin Gentry

Mr. Gentry stated the group had their first meeting after the award and because some things had changed since they started the grant with some of the other counties, we will need to sign a new contract. Then, we will be able to move forward with the contracted phase of the project. Our cost for the project is \$170,000 and would be paid out in quarterly increments. Mr. Gentry will email with the details and Mr. Koontz would be taking the information to the BOS as we don't currently have that amount in our account and it would need to be moved on their approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Jamaica will most likely not be included in the laying of fiber, but All Points suggested they might, in the interim, be able to provide wireless until fiber to the home is an option for up to a year or two. It was suggested that micro pops may be the most efficient way to address the needs in Jamaica for now. Also, the Hillcrest project that Mr. Henley and Mr. Grichtmeier would be better to table for now until deep dive was completed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until the next meeting set for May 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., by motion of Mr. Henley, seconded by Mr. Grichtmeier; carried unanimously.

John Koontz, Chairman

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