

AT A MEETING OF THE MIDDLESEX BROADBAND AUTHORITY HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 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

Absent: Elizabeth Young, Consultant
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.

MINUTES

Mr. Koontz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 18, 2021, minutes. There were none.

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

Mr. Gentry reported we had received the VATI 4 counties regional grant due to the hard work and time from all of you that went into the grant application. It is bittersweet because the Mathews/Gloucester grant was also approved but because of the RDOF

impact, Middlesex was unable to participate. If RDOF had not become a last minute issue, we would have won two grants.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. RFP Interviewees

Mr. Gentry reported there were five respondents to the advertised RFP. Out of the five; Mr. Grechtmeier, Mr. Gentry and Mr. Barnette chose Design 9 and Broadband Telecom were selected for interviews. It is hoped that the interviews will be held around the end of March thru April 2nd if possible. Mr. Koontz asked if there would be a need for Mr. Lockaby to be included in the interview panel as well as Mrs. Lewis. Mrs. Lewis stated it would be best if Mr. Lockaby were a participant because of his expertise in these matters. Mr. Gentry stated he or Mrs. Lewis will be in contact with Mr. Lockaby to set those interviews up.

B. All Points Broadband and Dominion

Mr. Gentry reported he had a meeting with All Points Broadband and Dominion regarding working to provide broadband to the home. Mr. Jimmy Carr, with All Points Broad and also Dominion wanting to roll in and deliver the fiber to homes. The want to blanket the county, covering the area. Dominion is extending their fiber to more safe and secure and because of their instrumentation want to control their own fiber. Mr. Gentry showed them a map of the Jamaica with the houses far distanced apart. Before they was not considered financially something they wanted to do. Now they are very interested in providing this opportunity to homes. At this point, Mr. Gentry doesn't know specifics of funding but it is a conversation that needs to continue to get this for our partds of the county not covered.

Mr. Grichtmeier stated the hardware for the unify access point that is bleeding edge that we are going to test is starting to ship.

Mr. Koontz asked if there was anything to update on SpaceX. Mr. Grichtmeier stated he had not hear anything yet. Mr. Barnette stated they had put up a new satellite launched from Wallops Island.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gentry had Mickey Daniels reach out to him to possibly do some micro pops through his own company. He is not up and running yet, but will be eventually, and wanted to make sure we had his resource to consider in the future. Mr. Koontz wanted to see if he could either come to a monthly meeting or reach out to Mr. Grichtmeier and Mr. Henley to discuss the possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Grichtmeier spoke on the Beta software availability on the Ubiquity site to allow you to create towers and a subscriber base for standing up and ISP via their

wireless service. They have launched about 4 new devices in the last 6-9 months that cover up to the 5 megahertz range. This would allow you to simulate putting this on say the Saluda tower and take into consideration the topology. Mr. Henley and Mr. Grichtmeier will bring updates later on the validation of these new products. Mr. Henley stated it's close to software that Lancaster used for a while to estimate the range, etc.

Mr. Koontz had been working on suicide prevention with experts contributing from a great distance, which uses software (Mavenlink) to help with discussions between in real time of their tests or come up with ideas to create a focused agenda so maybe we want to do something like this. Mr. Gentry stated we have the One Drive now, we just don't use it to do this yet. Mr. Koontz stated it would be nice to try something like this by the next meeting. Mrs. Lewis asked to make sure when it comes to members discussing local business, FOIA policies are still in effect and are discussions are subject to the need to be preserved.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned until the next meeting set for March 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., by motion of Mr. Barnette, seconded by Mr. Henley; carried unanimously.

John Koontz, Chairman