



The future of broadband in southwest Virginia.

**Wired Road Authority
Board Meeting
June 26, 2019 – 3:00 PM – Galax Municipal Building**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Construction Progress Meeting – Wired Road Connector Project
3. Consent Agenda
 - Minutes from May 2019 meeting
 - April May Financial Report
4. Reports
 - Wide Open
5. Old Business
 - TRRC Last Mile Program – Grant Update
 - Grayson Broadband Study Update
 - Carroll Broadband Study Update
 - Upgrade Services update
 - LS Net Lawsuit
 - other
6. New Business
 - FOIA Request
 - Other
7. Public Comments



The Wired Road Authority
May 22, 2019
Minutes

Members Present

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Keith Barker | BRCEDA Appointee, Chairman |
| John Fant | Grayson County Representative, Vice-Chairman |
| Steve Truitt | Carroll County Representative, Secretary |
| C.M. Mitchell | BRCEDA Appointee |
| Travis Hanes | Galax Representative |

Others Present

Matt Bussing, Wide Open Networks
Angela Wolfe, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (participated by telephone through Construction Progress Discussion)

Construction Progress Update

Mr. Barker opened the meeting at 3:03 pm and requested an update on construction progress. Mr. Bussing reported on the progress of the effort since the last report:

Aerial Construction

- Mr. Bussing reported that USC has begun to mobilize specific resources for the project and crews will begin work next week
- Mr. Bussing related that an inspection of AEP's poles along the route on May 13 revealed that 12 of them were not suitably prepared for the installation. Since then, six have been remedied
- Despite the prior point, aerial construction is still slated to begin next week and is expected to take three weeks to a month to complete
- Mr. Bussing committed to coordinate interviews for Ms. Wolfe at the construction sites over the next several days.

Drop Construction

- Mr. Bussing presented a proposed post card for notifying the 137 potential customers identified along the drop construction route that the services is available

- Mr. Mitchel commented that the language on the card, particularly the language “fiber drop installation” might be too technical for many potential customers. Mr. Fant agreed. The group discussed several potential changes and agreed on something like “free high-speed internet installation. Mr. Hanes then asked who the incumbent supplier is. Mr. Bussing stated that it is a combination of CenturyLink DSL and various satellite services. Mr. Bussing agreed to make the changes to the card and send it to the group for next week.
- The group then reviewed the financial assumptions underlying the free connection initiative. Up to 300 ft of fiber is included for \$708 and the splice is an additional \$135 with unit pricing for installs longer than 300ft. The costs for installing a strip mall business range from between \$1500 to \$2500. The available funds can cover somewhere between 100 to 170 sign ups. There was a brief discussion with Angela on the requirements for reclassifying grant funds, which she said she will check. She also said she believed the permitted usage was fairly broad as long as overall goals of the grant continue to be pursued. Mr. Barker noted that determination will be made later as to what to do with any remaining funds
- See the attached Construction Report for other Construction issues

Regular Meeting

Consent Agenda

Mr. Barker presented the April 2019 meeting minutes for review and approval. No financial report was available at the meeting time. Mr. Fant made the motion to accept the consent agenda items excluding the financial report, seconded by Mr. Mitchell. The motion, with no questions or discussions, passed unanimously.

Matt Bussing gave an operations status report, which is attached. In addition to the operational issues noted in the report the group addressed the following topics:

- Mr. Bussing asked if the group would approve the revised backhaul rates. Mr. Fant moved to accept the rates as reviewed. Mr. Mitchell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Barker suggested that Lingo bill Citizens directly for ongoing repair work to avoid duplicative handling. The group agreed.
- Mr. Fant asked Mr. Bussing if was aware of system slowdowns that occur regularly on Sundays in the Grant area. Mr. Bussing said has not and that the equipment was updated and should have plenty of capacity. Mr. Hanes and Mr. Truitt opined that the cause might be either a large scheduled weekly back-up or equipment problems. Mr. Bussing will check on the issue and report back.

- Mr. Barker asked Mr. Bussing if the Upgraded Service Press Release was written. Mr. Bussing replied it is not and committed to complete it and distribute for review by next Tuesday.

Old Business

- Grayson County – Mr. Fant discussed the potential changes to Grayson’s Last Mile Grant application with TRRC because of the impact of its recently announced project with AEP to run fiber on most or all of AEP’s poles in Grayson County. Mr. Fant gave a brief overview of the AEP project concept and said after design considerations are worked out installation should begin in 1st QTR 2020.
- Mr. Fant also reported on Michael Clemons’ representation of Carroll’s application at the recent TRRC meeting and said he did a good job pushing the effort forward.
- Carroll County – Nothing to add.
- No update on Downtown Wireless.

New Business

Mr. Barker requested consideration to approve the resolution Carroll County needs for it ReConnect application on behalf of TWR (see attached). Mr. Fant moved to approve the resolution and the motion was seconded by Mr. Hanes. The motion passed unanimously with no additional discussion.

There being no additional new business and no members of the public present Mr. Barker adjourned the meeting at 4:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Truitt, Secretary