

Telecommunications Commission Meeting Minutes August 11, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Commission Members: Present - Glenna Meade, Brian Roinestad, Brandon Estep, Jr., Nicholas Iroaka-Ohia, Michael Campesi, Kelly Carder, Wanda Blackwell. From Stafford County, Shannon Eubanks and CTO Mike Cannon.

1.	Call to Order – 7:00 Mike Campesi
2.	Roll Call – Shannon Eubanks
3.	Presentations by the Public: Citizen names added to minutes (address, telephone and email addresses to be redacted before publishing) Brief remarks from the Commission at the conclusion of last citizen-speaker (optional) *See summary of comments below.
4.	Approval of minutes from previous Commission meeting – June meeting because July did not have a quorum. Ms. Carder moved to approve. Ms. Meade seconded. Vote was unanimous.
5.	Agenda additions/adjustments
5.	Old Business (including members’ general concerns) - Comcast Case Updates – Shannon Eubanks - VATI Updates – Mike Cannon - KGI 2020 grant has been completed. They provided 10% of speed tests and met it. - Comcast 2022 Grant – We are about to proceed with construction. It will be an 18-month project, predominantly in Hartwood and Rock Hill. - Comcast 2023 – We solicited an RFI and had several responses. A panel looked at them and they were unanimous in selecting Comcast. They are proposing 1,250 homes they would reach which would include Marlborough Point and areas around the county. We are asking the Board to consider reallocating some ARPA funds as an additional match and to approve the application for the grant. Mike Campesi made a motion to support partnering with Comcast on a 2023 VATI grant application. Mr. Estep seconded. The vote was unanimous
7.	New Business - Chris Fulmer, Stafford County Public Schools, spoke on the Schools Position on towers at schools. (At the time, they were considering a tower but have since changed course and have no plans for towers.) *See summary of comments below - Introduce County’s Preliminary Broadband Plan – Mike Cannon handed out the preliminary Broadband plan. CTC is consultant firm we used. It is the first of its kind we have done before. We interviewed a lot of stakeholders and providers. They have several recommendations. The 40-page report is on the website. The CTO is taking it to the Board on August 16. Their estimate is 3500 homes without broadband in the county. It is an inexact science as providers are very proprietary with numbers.
8.	Discussion items – FCC have expanded ways for people to qualify and get services and they can also get the higher end of the service. There is a \$30 credit for those in need
9.	Adjournment – Mr. Estep moved to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Ms. Blackwell seconded. Vote was unanimous to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.
	Action Items for Next Meeting - NONE

Presentations from the Public

- Matt McCraw – Mr. McCraw asked about the Comcast density survey for his neighborhood. It has been three months since they requested it. Mike Campesi did not have an update on it. Mr. Roinestad met with GIS on Monday, June 6, to look at density.
- Greg Kubala – Mr. Kubala asked why there is no taxpayer money towards broadband in Marlborough Point. He has KGI. He asked why there is only one provider. Mike Cannon talked about a grant application he is bringing in front of the Board to apply with Comcast for Marlborough Point. Mr. Roinestad requested we ask KGI to come give an update at a meeting. Mr. Estep has Starlink on Courthouse Road. He said it is working beautifully.
- Steve Parsons spoke about H.H. Poole, about the impact of the health and safety of the children and potential long-term health effects of a possible telecommunications tower. When it relates to children's health and safety, he thinks we should err on the side of caution. He wants to know what independent studies show that they do not show long-term damage to the health to children. He said that in Germany and Israel, studies show cancer risk was increased by 300% by those within 1300 feet of towers. He said most regulations on this have been based on a male of 200 pounds – with a child everything is smaller. He mentioned his sources as the Environmental Health Trust, 5g Technology News, American Cancer Society, etc. The commission requested Shannon Eubanks email him to get a copy of his sources.
- Daniel Byler – Mr. Byler says he's going to have to move if the KGI service doesn't get better. He has almost 100 emails to KGI for complaints. He said he has received sub-par service. He said it has become a professional liability. The TCC asked Shannon Eubanks to email him to get copies of complaints from he and his neighbors.
- Paul Tracy echoed the concerns of Mr. Parsons about towers. He is worried about future property values.
- Chris Fulmer – Deputy Superintendent for Stafford County Public Schools. He does not represent the School Board. He is speaking on the information he has given them. He presented to the FAB C (budget committee) to give them initial info to see what the direction was for those three members before he took it to the School Board. The Schools have been approached by Milestone about the need for better cell and broadband service in the H.H. Poole area. The biggest concern with the FAB C was receiving public input before moving forward. Next steps are to take that and present it to full School Board at September meeting. They are potentially going to invite Milestone to get a presentation. It will definitely not move forward without a lot of public input. Chris asked if there is a

gap in 911 coverage and cell phone coverage. Mike Cannon said he could find out.

- Mr. Roinestad said the TCC gets a lot of questions from the public about towers. He said it would be helpful if the TCC was given a heads up about meetings so they can tell the public.
- Mr. Parsons asked if there were records of gaps in service in that area. Mike Cannon said it has been brought up to supervisors in that area for several years, Mr. Cannon said he wasn't sure if there was county property available for a tower instead of schools. Mr. Cannon said we are doing a telecommunications study that will identify gaps and come up with recommendations.