



Albemarle County

Legislation Text

File #: 20-227, **Version:** 1

AGENDA DATE: 4/15/2020

TITLE:

Albemarle Broadband Authority Quarterly Report

SUBJECT/PROPOSAL/REQUEST: Albemarle Broadband Authority Quarterly Report

ITEM TYPE: Consent Information Item

STAFF CONTACT(S): Richardson, Henry, Culp, Fritz

PRESENTER (S): Mike Culp, Bucky Walsh

LEGAL REVIEW: Not Required

REVIEWED BY: Jeffrey B Richardson

BACKGROUND: The Albemarle Broadband Authority (ABBA) was incorporated on August 21, 2017. This report is being provided as information on ABBA's work January through March 2020.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Infrastructure Investment: Prioritize, plan and invest in critical infrastructure that responds to past and future changes and improves the capacity to serve community needs. Educational Opportunities: Provide lifelong learning opportunities for all our citizens. Quality Government Operations: Ensure County government's ability to provide high quality service that achieves community priorities.

DISCUSSION: ABBA has held two public meetings in 2020. The ABBA agendas and meeting minutes are posted for public review on the County's website.

Beginning in January and through March 2020, ABBA collected broadband input from citizens throughout the County. The broadband input documented the areas of the County where broadband service is lacking. The broadband input became documentation included in a draft Request For Information (RFI) scheduled to be released either the last week of March or first week of April 2020.

An ABBA application for a Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) 2020 Grant was submitted in September 2019. CenturyLink partnered with ABBA to submit the application and in January; VATI offered ABBA and CenturyLink a grant award of \$291,300. The application commits another \$291,300 as ABBA "match", and with CenturyLink committing \$1,359,400; results in a total project cost of \$1,942,000. This VATI 2020 project will provide fiber broadband service options (1gigabit speeds) to 837 locations in the County. ABBA and DHCD finalized the VATI contract on March 27, 2020 and CenturyLink will begin work with an expected completion date on or before March 5, 2021.

ABBA is managing work on a prior VATI funded project with Central Virginia Electrical Cooperative (CVEC). The CVEC project originates from the CVEC Midway electrical substation and when complete will offer fiber broadband service options to approximately 325 locations in Albemarle County. This project is close to the connection phase, where residents will receive gigabit internet service where before their only option was dial-

up, slow DSL, or satellite.

During the next reporting period (April through June 2020); ABBA will continue its work partnering with the County, Internet Service Providers and others to add broadband service in the County rural areas.

BUDGET IMPACT: There is no other further budget impact.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Status Report