



## COUNTY OF AMHERST

### Public Information Officer

AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
153 WASHINGTON STREET  
P. O. Box 390  
AMHERST, VIRGINIA 24521

TELEPHONE (434) 946-9400  
FACSIMILE (434) 946-9370

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#### Broadband Authority Board Update

The Broadband Authority Board had its second meeting this past Tuesday after being reinstated last month. The board has received an unsolicited PPEA proposal but it is not official yet, as it is supposed to be accompanied by a \$5,000 check to cover the costs of professional review of the proposal. Currently the board is contacting the proposer to see if they want us to accept this proposal into our procurement process.

The Board also appointed two citizens, Eldon Cox and Loy Fraser, to join the Broadband Authority Board as citizen members. Mr. Cox and Mr. Fraser will help the rest of the board members review proposals that come in. If the firm does submit a check, it is the County Administrators job to decide whether to accept the proposal and publicize it for counter proposals. The staff is currently searching to hire professional assistance to help the board review the technical proposals as they come in.

The main goal for the Broadband Authority Board is to bring broadband service to the underserved areas of the County. In order for this to happen, the County plans to make available its five regional radio towers, which are within Amherst County. Also, the staff has been coordinating with Sweet Briar College to use their 2.5 gigahertz frequency band to enhance the potential coverage for broadband services.

Additional information may be obtained from Layney Sandifer at [lesandifer@countyofamherst.com](mailto:lesandifer@countyofamherst.com) or (434)-946-9400.