

Amherst County Board of Supervisors County Resolution No. 2021-0020-R

For consideration on August 17, 2021

A RESOLUTION, NO. 2021-0020-R

A resolution of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors expressing support to bring universal broadband internet access to its citizens across Amherst County, Virginia.

Approved as to form and legality by the Amherst County Attorney

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:

I. That the Amherst County Board of Supervisors expresses support to bring universal broadband internet access to its citizens across Amherst County, Virginia, as follows:

WHEREAS, Amherst County is committed to bringing universal broadband internet access to its citizens across the county within the next three years; and

WHEREAS, Firefly Fiber Broadband, Dominion Energy and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative have developed a regional internet service expansion project with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District as the lead applicant with the county being one of multiple counties included in the project to make fiber to the home broadband internet service available to the unserved locations in the county; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary planning for the regional project has identified 4,322 locations in the county as being unserved without access to speeds faster than 25 mbps download or 3 mbps upload, and the preliminary design includes 548 miles of fiber optic cable to be installed in the county to make service available to those locations, with a cost estimate of \$28,860,550 for the construction, creating a need for additional grant funding to make the project financially feasible; and

WHEREAS, this project will seek grant funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development through its Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) with an application on or before 14 September 2021, and that application process provides additional scoring points for local contributions to the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF AMHERST COUNTY, VIRGINIA:

That the Amherst County Board of Supervisors supports that Amherst County will participate in the regional project and fully support the application including providing local matching funding not to exceed \$3,025,400.

II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

Adopted this 17th day of August 2021.

Jennifer R. Moore, Chair Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Member	Vote
Jennifer R. Moore, Chair	AVE
David W. Pugh, Jr., Vice-Chair	AYE
Tom Martin	AYE
L. J. "Jimmy" Ayers, III	AYE
Claudia D. Tucker	AYE

ATTEST:

Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk

Board of Supervisors of the County of Amherst, Virginia