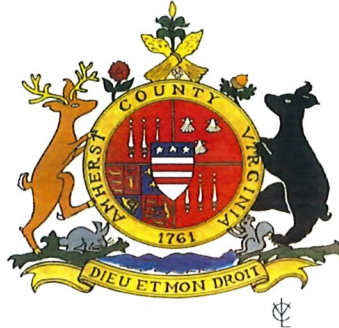


**Broadband Authority Board**

Claudia D. Tucker, Chair  
L. J. Ayers III, Vice-Chair  
David W. Pugh, Jr., Director  
Kenneth M. Campbell, Director  
Jennifer R. Moore, Director



**Clerk**  
Dean C. Rodgers

**County Attorney**  
Michael W. S. Lockaby

**Treasurer**  
Stacey L. Wilkes

**AMHERST COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

AGENDA  
July 17, 2018

Administration Building - 153 Washington Street - Public Meeting Room  
Amherst, Virginia 24521  
Meeting Convened – 6:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Citizen Comment**
- V. Public Hearing**
  - A. Broadband Comprehensive Agreement
- VI. Consent Agenda**
  - A. Minutes – June 19, 2018
- VII. Citizen Comment**
- VIII. Adjournment**

**MINUTES**

At a Regular Meeting of the Broadband Authority Board of Amherst County, Virginia and held at the Amherst County Administration building thereof on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., the following members were present:

**BROADBAND AUTHORITY BOARD**

**PRESENT:** Claudia D. Tucker, Chair  
L. J. Ayers, III, Director  
David W. Pugh, Jr., Director  
Kenneth M. Campbell, Director  
Jennifer R. Moore, Director

**ABSENT:** None

STAFF PRESENT: County Administrator Dean C. Rodgers; Deputy County Administrator David R. Proffitt; Interim County Attorney Michael W. S. Lockaby; and Executive Administrative Assistant Regina M. Rice

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Tucker called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

By motion of Director Ayers and with the following vote, the Broadband Authority Board amended the agenda for July 17, 2018 by striking III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

AYE: Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Moore  
NAY: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**III. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV. Citizen Comment**

Mr. Robert Steckel of Amherst, Virginia, addressed the Board and thanked all for taking the initiative on broadband and internet service. Mr. Steckel stressed how important broadband service is for commerce, education and emergency services and applauded the Board for getting things moving.

Mr. Steckel asked if there were any limits on the FCC level that caps 20 gigabytes monthly for any users.

Chair Tucker suggested to Mr. Steckel that after County Attorney Lockaby presents his report, if there were any unanswered questions, to have him put them in writing and give to the County Administrator.

The citizen comment session was closed.

**V. Public Hearing**

**A. Broadband Comprehensive Agreement**

County Attorney Michael Lockaby advised that the Broadband Authority is conducting a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Agreement with SCS Broadband.

Mr. Lockaby provided background information regarding a partnership with SCS Broadband that began in October 2017.

Mr. Lockaby said the Comprehensive Agreement is between the Broadband Authority and AcelaNet LLC, and a second agreement is necessary between the Amherst County Broadband Authority and the Region 2000 Radio Board. This will allow SCS Broadband access to public safety towers that are owned or controlled by the Region 2000 Radio Board to co-locate their equipment to improve broadband coverage within Amherst County.

Mr. Lockaby provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the process. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Lockaby said the Broadband Authority has to wait thirty days to approve or disapprove the agreement, which he expected it to be finalized by September 2018.

The Public Hearing was opened.

The following citizens addressed questions to the Board.

Ms. Patricia Gibbons of Monroe, Virginia asked if there were limits on requests for towers from private owners and where private towers would go up. Ms. Gibbons expressed her concern about the view shed.

Mr. Rodgers explained there would be no numerical limits for towers, however, the only issue would be the cost and some zoning matters. He advised the County does have a zoning ordinance regarding the height of the towers.

Mr. Robert Steckle of Amherst, Virginia asked if there was information on a website about the tower heights and regulations.

Mr. Lockaby advised those ordinances are found on the County's website. He will be revising County ordinances to comply with State legislation, in particular Section 919, which will be changing in the next few months.

Ms. Carolyn Brunning of Amherst, Virginia, addressed the Board and asked if the County was working with Verizon and Comcast to have fiber optic cable in the County. Ms. Brunning voiced her concern that she has moved into an area in the County that is not serviced by broadband.

Chair Tucker explained that the broadband issue has been a long project, and now is moving forward.

The Public Hearing was closed.

By motion of Director Pugh and with the following vote, the Broadband Authority considered the Comprehensive Agreement for approval at their September 4, 2018 meeting.

AYE:	Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Moore
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**VI. Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes – June 19, 2018

By motion of Director Ayers and with the following vote, the Broadband Authority Board approved the minutes for June 19, 2018.

AYE:	Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Moore
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**VII. Citizen Comment**

There was no public comment.

**VIII. Adjournment**

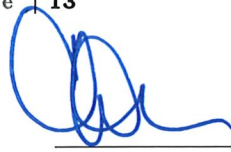
By motion of Director Campbell and with the following vote, the Board adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

AYE:	Mrs. Tucker, Mr. Ayers, Mr. Pugh, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Moore
NAY:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

**BOOK 1**

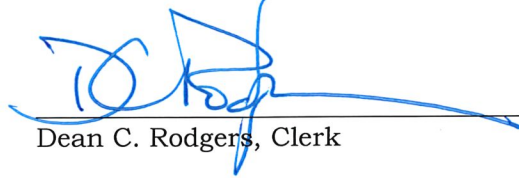
MINUTES - July 17, 2018

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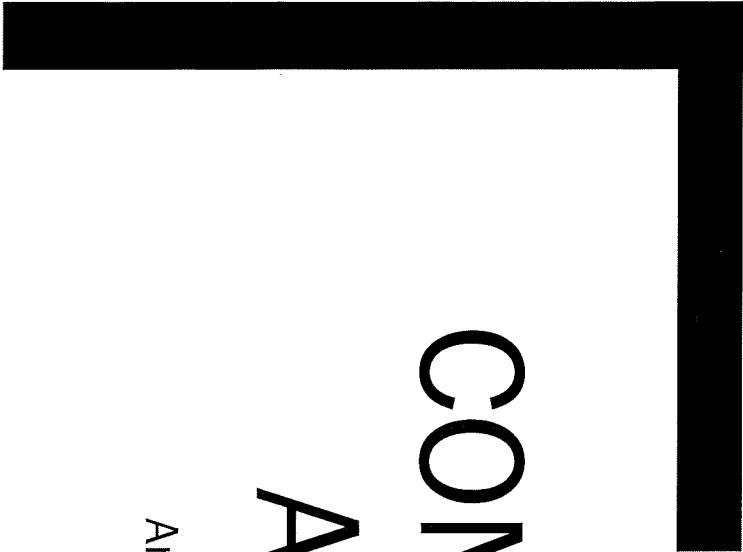
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Claudia D. Tucker, Chair  
Amherst County Broadband Authority




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Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk



**PPEA**  
**COMPREHENSIVE**  
**AGREEMENT**

Amherst County Broadband Authority  
July 17, 2018



# PPEA Unsolicited Conceptual Proposal

- Acelanet LLC, d/b/a SCS Broadband, submitted an unsolicited proposal to the Broadband Authority under the Public-Private Education Facilities & Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA) on October 17, 2017.
- The Purchasing Agent shortly thereafter determined that the Proposal met the Broadband's PPEA Guidelines and advertised for competing proposals.
- No competing proposals were received by the deadline. Other firms expressed interest, but decided not to submit after studying the issue.

# Detail Phase

- The Broadband Authority Board accepted the conceptual proposal and appointed a selection committee composed of staff members and interested citizens to review the proposal and negotiate the details of an agreement with SCS, and recommend whether to move forward to the interim and comprehensive phases.
- The detail phase is complete and a draft scope and Comprehensive Agreement has been negotiated. The selection committee has recommended the Comprehensive Agreement.
- The selection committee also recommends skipping the interim phase and moving directly to Phase 1 of the comprehensive agreement.

# What is the technology for Phase 1?

- SCS uses fixed-point wireless.
- It will use a mixture of unlicensed, licensed (LTE), and probably educational spectrum supplied by Sweet Briar (under a separate agreement).
- This is largely a line-of-sight technology.
- Unlimited data; you use a graduated pay scale for speed.
- Residential plans run from \$35 to \$115 per month, less than or competitive with wireline providers.
- Business plans run from \$150 to \$300 per month (much faster than residential).



# Comprehensive Agreement

- Comprehensive Agreement calls directly for Phase 1 deployment to five towers.
- SCS already has several towers in Amherst County. Our towers will increase coverage.
- Deployment dates are estimated – there is float and excusable delay for issues with permitting, weather, etc.

Name	Lat/Long	Deployment Date
High Peak	37° 33' 47.33"/79° 11' 37.06"	11/4/18
Buffalo Ridge	37° 31' 15.37"/78° 59' 9.08"	1/4/19
Panther Mountain	37° 42' 10.0"/79° 11' 20.70"	3/4/19
Rocky Mountain	37° 47' 43.9"/79° 10' 48.17"	7/4/19
Amherst Control	37° 35' 7.60"/79° 3' 0.20"	5/4/19

# What are the mechanics of going on these towers?

- Towers are owned by the Region 2000 Radio Board and are part of the regional public safety radio system used by the Sheriff and Fire/EMS.
- Region 2000 makes space on these towers available to member localities for use in expanding rural broadband.
- The Authority will lease space, and contract it to SCS. SCS will own, place, and maintain the equipment. It commits in the Agreement to replace the equipment as it becomes outdated.
- SCS will use a combination of microwave and fiber for “backhaul.”

# What are the main features of this agreement?

- SCS designs and chooses the equipment; approved by the Authority and the Radio Board.
- Initial five-year agreement with three five-year optional renewals.
- Sweet Briar's spectrum is a plus, but not necessary.
- SCS is obligated to do equipment updates and replacement on a continuing schedule.
- There is a mechanism for resolution of customer complaints and for dissolving the agreement upon breach or inability of SCS to provide adequate service or to handle customer complaints.

# Public hearing.

- We're here to hear your input on whether to do the agreement.
- The Authority must wait 30 days to approve/disapprove the agreement. We expect it to be final in September.
- The agreement you see is not "fully cooked." It is 90% final, but we are genuinely seeking public input. What comes before the Board in September will be final.

# You said “Phase 1”—what’s next?

- Because the Authority has a private partner, we now have several options open to us.
- If neighborhoods or individuals want to build out neighborhood systems for get service in “low places” that are out of the line-of-site, SCS and the Authority will work with you to price, design, and make this accelerated build-out happen.
- The Governor and the General Assembly have authorized the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) to make up to \$4 million available (and possibly more) for grants to bring broadband to rural areas that currently have no service other than satellite. We are working with SCS to explore options to obtain sites and grants for Phase 2.
- The Authority has right-of-way access. In Madison Heights, small-cell might be an option for ubiquitous, high-quality internet. This might be Phase 3.
- We also have the ability to partner with CVEC and APCO, both of which are exploring developing fiber backbone networks along with their electrical systems.

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# Questions?