



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

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Board of Supervisors and Broadband Authority Board Joint Meeting

The Amherst County Board of Supervisors and Broadband Authority Board held a joint meeting on September 1, 2020 to discuss using funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to expand the availability of broadband in Amherst County. They reviewed proposals from Firefly Fiber Broadband, SCS Broadband, and Zitel Broadband. Firefly Fiber Broadband was awarded a \$500,000 contract to lay broadband fiber in the New Glasgow area of the County.

This project will reach two-hundred-and-fifty-one houses. Dr. Arnold, Superintendent of Amherst County Public Schools, estimates installation in that area will reach the homes of close to one-hundred students. One section of the project will lay fiber along Boxwood Farm Road from New Glasgow Road to Turner Creek Road and extend west along Toytown Road, covering multiple side roads.

The second section of the project covers the northwest side of the railroad tracks, starting from an area where Firefly already has service at New Glasgow Road. The project area will continue up New Glasgow Road and along Stove Hill Road, Greenock Court and Edinburgh Drive.

The complete proposal can be found in the September 1, 2020 Board of Supervisors agenda:

<https://amherstcova.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1524&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>

At this time, the Board has decided to delay any further broadband efforts until the broadband consultant, Lit Communities, presents their recommendations in October. Lit Communities has entered a contract with the County to produce a plan to bring internet access to every home and business in the County.

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.