

Broadband Advisory Council Meeting

5/20/21 4 – 5pm | Update and Discussion with Talkie

Attendance:

Mary Ellen Sheffield
Megan Delgaudio
Andrew Costello
Alison Davis
Ed Cummins
Dion Reid
Ed Clower

Guests:

Andre DeMattia - Talkie Communications
Andrew DeMattia – Talkie Communications

Ed Clower open to meeting Ed Cummings second @ 4:04 pm. Ed Cummings motion to approve April minutes and Alison Seconded.

Update from Megan:

- Got MOU's for approved State projects signed by Todd. Need for those to be countersigned to be used for MOU's with ISP's.
- Talked to an organization called SHLB – Kent County is a member. Andre DeMattia mentioned they are also members. This organization can provide more ideas for funding and help keep us in the know of current broadband initiatives. Membership is based on County's operating budget. Trying to get the correct number.
- Kendrick Gordon mentioned he would be working with ISP's and County representatives to discuss the best way to spend the ~\$300 million provided to the State.
- Baltimore Metro Council had a meeting to discuss if there is a way to regionally approach the spending of the State's \$300M. All Counties in this group except for Queen Anne's is on the western shore where they have more infrastructure already in place. Megan informed that group that broadband infrastructure is still the priority for our County.

Talkie discussion – Items currently underway:

- Willow Branch – 2 weeks away from being connected. RR permit and conduit will be delivered tonight. Everyone on every side street.
- Clark's corner all the way to 405/Price Station– to be done in about 2 weeks.
- Completed Phase III of Northbrook – within 7 days.
- Started on Cloverfield's – contractor – about 4 months. Miss Utility tickets – a lot of stuff in the ground.
- Kent Island piece by piece.
- Crumpton in about 1 month.
- Chester Harbor in about 4 weeks.

- Working down Rt. 544.
- White Marsh – start the back as soon as Willow Branch is done.
- About 8 more on the horizon once these are finished up.

RDOF – auditing books – due by May 27th. Last step - then wait for FCC to grant the money. Anywhere between August and October. Should be easier because they are fiber.

NTIA Grant – not a lot of information – working with lawyer right now. Rules are very difficult to meet eligibility. Small window to apply and then funding comes pretty fast. A lot of wireless providers who are claiming broadband speeds; however, we know they are not providing that level of service. CTC feasibility studies are being used for guidelines.

How many projects in Kent County? – State grants for 9 different areas.

Staff doubled, 4 action drills, 2 plows – will be getting 6 more drills

Availability of supplies are slowing down but they did order a lot more than they needed 4 months ago. They are ordering at least 3 months ahead. Prices are going up – Conduit. Starting in another county and purchasing a larger warehouse to store supplies.

Doing as much work in-house as possible. How many customers running in QAC? (will discuss offline) 98% of Double Creek – was a no service. Initial take rate is 35-40%. No service is usually in the high 90% take rate. People sign up prior to it being online.

4:26pm - Moved to Executive Session – Reason to discuss expansion of a business in QAC. Alison Davis made motion, Ed Glower 2nd. At 4:26 pm

Motion to leave Executive Session – Dion Reed – Ed Clower Second at 5:03 pm

Dion Reid offered to help Megan with anything she needs.

Adjourned 5:05pm