

## ARLINGTON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

6:00 PM, Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

### MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

**Chair:** Mary Crannell

**Vice Chair:** Frank Jazzo

**Members Present:** Jonathan Adelstein, John Burke, Mike Carleton,  
Phil Caughran, Martha Moore, Kevin Robins,  
Jackie Snelling, Dr. Denise Haskins, David Husband

**County Staff:** David Herlihy, County Staff liaison  
Jack Belcher, CIO

**Members of the Public:** Kevin Broadhurst, Comcast and Louise Anderson, Verizon

**Visitors:** Tim Dempsey, Broadband Authority Initiative

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Mary Crannell

6:00 PM

#### Public Comment

None

#### Tim Dempsey, Broadband Authority Initiative

- January focus was on state legislature bills and meeting with our delegates. There is minor progress at the state level. Do not know of anything that happened that will affect anything in Arlington.
- After the special session ends, meeting with some of the state and local legislators to get them to put in some bills that we think will be key for what we're doing.
- We've had positive developments going around to three civic associations and giving presentations and getting feedback.
- Charlie and his wife published a column in The Progressive Voice series in ARL NOW that drove a decent amount of traffic to website and a lot of people signed up.
- We have added quite a bit of expertise to our stable. We now have a fiber optics engineer and a telecom lawyer.
- One member is reaching out to their business improvement districts and compiled a list. Charles will be reaching out to them and schedule a meeting
  - **Discussion**
    - Frank Jazzo: suggested that it may make sense to go to a joint Arlington /Alexandria authority. Broadening the base seems that there would be a lot of advantages to doing it that way.

**Information Technology Advisory Commission**

- Tim Dempsey: have been working closely with head of Information Technology Commission for Alexandria, Catherine Rice, who is a longtime broadband community proponent. She has been watching closely what we're doing in Arlington.
- She
- She's worked with her Commission members to put a formal recommendation to go to the mayor and City Council, advising them to form a broadband authority as part of building their version of Connect Arlington.
- Mike suggested Encouraging if putting gup new buildings and putting up a new utility in the right of way incorporating something into code that would allow any multiuse neutral wiring so that people can hook in.
- John thoughts on other municipalities gives him pause because a major investment in Connect Arlington that other municipalities do not have, therefore we have asset that could theoretically, transfer t a wireless service to serve as the foundation for capability and researching some of the other municipalities around Virginia that used this authority.
- Martha mentioned that we started this years ago thinking we would make money off of the cyber that we created.
- How much have we made as a result of the investment:
  - Per Jack, we did make a lot of money which was based on an estimate we got from Comcast at that time. 3.3 million a year to cover the public County in school building.
- John feels there is a consensus that the commission members recommend the County government look into the feasibility of not jumping into what the solution might be today but its an area that warrants an additional look at the pros and cons.
- Phil's question to Jack is how many families/kids are without basic broadband service. Jacki stated that they have something, but it is not adequate, a number of probably 19,000 families and kids that are in situation of not having sufficient broadband to work on a regular basis in the entire County.
- The board would like a formal response from the County as to whether or not they've looked into Broadband Authority, to what extent before we make a policy recommendation. Take that information and write a targeted recommendation that we can all agree to
- Comcast uses Arlington County now as a model when we partner with other communities such as Prince Georges and Baltimore counties.
- The commission poses the following question to the County Manager: "What publicly shareable information does the county have with regards to the formation of a wireless services commission that may be valuable to the Tech Commission to inform our deliberations on policy recommendations to the Courtney Board?"

**Department of Technical Services (DTS) Update – David Herlihy, DTS Arlington County, Tech Commission Liaison**

- The public beta new website starting in April. Beta will be the new user interface.
- There will be opportunities for community engagement with two exercises open to everybody.
- Report on the Manager’s Task Force was submitted last year in November. Mark understandably working with the COVID and Budget, trying to move forward with next steps of meeting with the Board on the report, once the budget situation becomes settled.

**Budget discussion and 11 March 21 Budget Session**

- The Commission received a slot to discuss budget on March 11.
- The state’s Public Health Director gives directions on what to do as we got vaccine administration and management system and he directs the Public Health Director of Arlington. We offer whatever assistance we can, but have not control over it, we only give advice but do not manage. It is not working well. We basically just take directions
- Mary would like a read on how Fairfax has opted out of the piece and looking as this as an example of what happens when you have a Federated model.
- John mention of NY Times article regarding procurement lawsuit filed by a woman who produced a system and claims that the Trump administration did not follow all of the procurement guidelines when it produced it Federal system that many states are moving away from. Shows that how we buy things procurement has a huge impact on the performance of our technology solutions and services.

- **Accomplishments in FY21**

- Transitioned 70% of Workforce to remote workplace
- Implemented TEAMS Enterprise Wide
- Implemented Contact Tracing Application for PH
- Transitioned Public Health Services to Electronic Files
- Implemented X7999 Call Center
- Implemented Remote upgrade of Tax Collection System (ACE)
- Migrated Judicial Courts to Virtual Hearings
- Implemented virtual County Board and Commission Meetings
- Upgraded Commonwealth Attorney’s Office to virtual work pace
- Extended ConnectArlington VHC Remote Testing at Quincy Street
- Extended ConnectArlington to VHC from Arlington Free Clinic
- Stood up 15 County Free Hotspots and 24 APS Hotspots
- Implemented Private LTE Network for APS Students
- Migrated internal ticketing system to a Cloud based system
- Designed and received approval for Innovation Zone
- Expanded Cybersecurity program
- Proof of Concept designed for broadband to Gates of Ballston
- 2020 Recognition as #1 Digital County

- **FY2022 Budget Themes**

- Plan for the Post Pandemic New Norm for the delivery of Government Services

- Accommodate the emergent technology drivers
    - Connectivity
    - Cybersecurity
    - Data
    - Internet of Things
    - AI and Robotic Process Automation
- **Budget Reductions**
  - Reductions: Total reduction: \$855K
    - Reduced staffing – 7.3 positions
    - Reduced network and Call Center Support
    - Reduced CORE Enterprise Systems Support
    - Elimination of Training
    - Reduction in Gartner Consultancy
    - Reduction in Management Intern Program
- **Summary and Forecast**
  - State of County Technology
    - We have performed well, our previous investments served the County well, the new Norm will require further investments
  - We're Getting Our Work Done, Today
    - We are not experiencing staff turnover but fear we will. Emote working equates with painless job transition. The indication from the Biden Administration is that they will invest in technology modernization across the federal government especially in the area of data and cybersecurity.
  - Need to Continue to Invest in Staff
    - Our workers come because they have pride in their achievements. Essential that we continue to recruit skills that we will need in the future to attract and retain workforce.
- Commission is most concerned in the UNFUNDED REQUEST ABOVE FY22 Base is the Identity Mgmt. Software, which is the biggest priced item. That would be the thing that should be at the top of the list for closeout funding for one-time funding. Nothing else matters if the enterprise is not secure.
- Recommendation by John that it is included in commentary to the Board. Will need to draft.
- Jack also recommended Stage Analysis CATV Franchise Renegotiations Verizon and Comcast.

### **Archives for Meetings and Minutes – Angela Easterwood**

- A quick review of the website; added link suggestions and where to go to find future and previous meeting dates and information.
  - Suggested to add a tool to search by a subject
  - Rebranding of name is Technology Advisory Commission instead of ITAC,

### **Review 27 January 2021 Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes adopted.

### **Frank Jazzo, Legislative Update**

- The FCC is all about broadband and broadband relief.
- The FCC is currently seeking comment on some petitions that were filed for emergency relief that allow use of E-rate funds to support remote learning during the pandemic, as well as looking to use towards some home devices.
- FCC is set up a comment period for comments on these emergency petitions that have been filed.
- FCC is looking to use E-rate funds to help close the remote learning deficit.
- Oldsmar, FL water treatment plant was hacked, and someone tried to increase the sodium hydroxide, which is hydrochloric acid, was increased 100 fold. Fortunately, there were staffers who were monitoring and noticed and was able to cut it off before there was an actual impact. A scary reminder Security is still very important.
- The House Energy and Commerce Committee passed as part of the ITS Global Relief legislation emergency education connections. Will allocate \$7 billion to E-rate program to help fund Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers and internet through such equipment to students, staff and patrons.
- The House have introduced 28 bills to expediate broadband buildout, including shot clocks for local approvals, to expand access on federal lands, streamlining historic and environmental reviews.
- Johnathan Adelstein, in his role as CEO of the Wireless Infrastructure Association, testified on Capitol Hill at the broadband hearing at the House Telecom subcommittee endorsed some of those policies included in the House Republican package.
- He supported the House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn affordable Internet for all Act, which provides additional money for broadband infrastructure package.
- Jonathan advocated for promoting co-location at existing infrastructure, which would be an emphasis on providing more skilled 5G workforce, including apprenticeships.
- February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the FCC received a presentation on the emergency broadband Benefit Program, which was approved in the COVID RELEIF ACT passed at the end of last year.
- The current Lifeline program carries may participate without further FCC approval. The benefit will provide a discount up to \$50 per month for broadband to low income households.
- There will be a one-time discount up to \$100 for laptop, desktop or tablet purchased from the and some must pay \$10-\$50 towards the device. Rules should be adopted by the end of February and a draft is currently being circulated.

### **Adjournment**

7:38 PM

### **Next Meeting**

Next Virtual Meeting: March 24, 2021 at 6pm via Teams