

**CECIL COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE**

MINUTES

July 23, 2014

PRESENT: Dave Warnick, Danny DeMarinis, Sean Brimm, George Remhof, Mark Caringi, David Black, GIS Coordinator, and Jim Massey, Council Manager.

Dave Warnick, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

A motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2014, was made by George Remhof, seconded by Sean Brimm and approved unanimously.

Danny DeMarinis, Sean Brimm, Mark Caringi, David Black, and Jim Massey attended an afternoon meeting with Rick Gordon, Field Representative, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Ashley Davis, Broadband Coordinator for Maryland-Delaware Office, was also present. Mr. Gordon described various grant and loan programs that are available for broadband service to rural communities. He discussed the population limitations for specific programs and how parts of a community could qualify for certain projects. He anticipates some changes in the programs because the Farm Bill is still being finalized in Congress. He suggested that Cecil County should plan ahead to apply next year or whenever the next program is announced. Mr. Gordon provided a copy of his presentation that was distributed to member by David Black.

The committee reviewed Draft #1 of the Final Report. Mr. Black made changes as the committee members reached a consensus. Overall suggestions included numbering the pages and sections of the document, providing a Glossary to define terms such as LTE, cellular data service, Wi-Max, Maryland Broadband Cooperative, DOIT, Broadband; and adding a section on Funding, which would include a variety of funding sources such as franchise fees, USDA grants, and ISPs. The committee discussed whether a broadband steering committee should be recommended. Mr. Black agreed to send a revised copy of the final plan to members.

The committee also discussed how the final report will be presented to the Council. Jim Massey will discuss with Council President about whether this should be done during a work session or legislative session.

The committee agreed that the BBTF will meet on August 6 to approve the final report.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. in the Perryville Room of the County Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Massey