

**VIRGINIA:**

A meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Supervisors was held in the Administrative Building Board/Commission Meeting Room of said county on Thursday, January 26, 2017.

- Members Present: William R. Lee, Chair
- Ernest W. Palin, Jr., Vice Chair
- Jason D. Bellows, Board Member
- B. Wally Beauchamp, Board Member
- Member Absent: F. W. Jenkins, Jr., Board Member
- Staff Present: Frank A. Pleva, County Administrator
- Don G. Gill, Planning and Land Use Director
- Crystal Whay, Building/Land Use Secretary

Mr. Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. George Bott, a District 1 citizen, referred to the ordinance for the non-exclusive franchise to Gans Communications d/b/a Metrocast on the consideration docket and stated that he had a few comments. He stated that Metrocast was a franchise from Pennsylvania and the local franchisee is located in Urbanna. He stated that an ordinance allowing Gans Communications to do business must have some value to them, but what value do the residents of Lancaster County get. He stated that they can get access to the service if they are located in a densely populated area which is defined as thirty or more people per mile, but that doesn't help in the more rural parts of the County, such as his neighborhood. He stated that the ordinance reads that Metrocast will run the service up to three hundred linear feet or one hundred fifty feet underground to get to a customer, but the potential customer has to pay for anything over that.

Mr. Bott stated that he was one thousand, twenty feet from Heritage Point, where there is Metrocast service. He stated that there were fifteen people in his neighborhood who would like to have the service. He stated that after speaking with Metrocast, he was told it would cost \$73,900 to bring the service into his neighborhood. He stated that it seemed unfair and does not work well for rural counties.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates – FY 2016 Audit

Mr. Paul Lee of Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates stated that he was presenting the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. He stated that the County received an unmodified opinion on the overall financial statements, which is the highest opinion that can be given by a CPA. He stated that the internal control report showed no deficiencies and no material weaknesses. He referred to a third item, the compliance opinion, and stated that there were no problems there either. He stated that, overall, the audit was very successful and he commended the staff for their work.

Mr. Lee stated that the general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year was approximately \$4.8 million dollars, which is about fifteen percent of the total budget. He stated that last year the County had a decline of about \$465,000 and that is not something that should happen every year. He stated that the goal is twenty percent if possible. He stated that the tax collection percentage was a little over one hundred percent this year, which includes current and delinquent tax revenues. He stated that information is good to know going into the upcoming budget season.

Mr. Lee stated that overall there were no corrections or errors that had to be dealt with in this year's audit.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to approve the FY 2016 Audit as presented.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Robert Harper, the VDOT Brookvale Superintendent, stated that the new electronic signs for the Merry Point Ferry are being installed and should be activated by the first part of March.

Mr. Harper stated that they have selected nine roads to be paved under the rural rustic guidelines for the upcoming year. He stated they have submitted the roads for review with their environmental department and to check for drainage issues. He stated that after that review is complete, the work should start in late May. He stated that the roads to be paved are in the following order: Route 712-Coleman Lane, Route 689-Courtney Road, Route 697-Smith Lane, Route 745-Dymer Beach Drive, Route 669-Daniel Drive, Route 1303-Pine Circle, Route 1302-Holly Circle, Route 1301-Cedar Circle and Route 1206-Forest Haven Drive.

Mr. Harper stated that they are also working on pothole patching, cutting back brush and drainage concerns. He stated that they have gotten through the first snow event of the season and had 26 pieces of equipment on the road for snow removal.

Mr. Beauchamp stated that VDOT did an outstanding job on the snow removal a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Harper stated that he had a lot of dedicated long-term contractors and he could not do it without them.

Mr. Bellows asked about an update on the bridge work.

Mr. Harper replied that he did not have any information, but would find out and let Mr. Pleva know the status.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

**CONSENSUS DOCKET**

Motion was made by Mr. Beauchamp to approve the Consensus Docket and recommendations as follows:

1. Minutes for December 12, 2016 Regular and Organizational Meetings

Recommendation: Approve minutes as submitted

2. Wetlands Board Activity Report 2016

Recommendation: Approve report as submitted

3. Board of Zoning Appeals Activity Report 2016

Recommendation: Approve report as submitted

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

**CONSIDERATION DOCKET**

The Board considered the following items on its Consideration Docket:

1. Approval of December 2016 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for December 2016 in the amount of \$262,280.11 and invoice listings for December 2016 in the amount of \$817,966.36\*.

- \*Capital Improvements - \$295,725.88
- \*Greentown/Gaskins Road - \$73,419.10

Approval of January 2017 Salaries and Invoice Listings

The motion was made by Mr. Palin to approve the salaries for January 2017 in the amount of \$257,936.03 and invoice listings for January 2017 in the amount of \$1,690,134.24\*.

- \*Capital Improvements - \$8,000.00
- \*Greentown/Gaskins Road - \$35,607.50
- \*Loan Payments - \$1,102,519.51

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

2. Extension of Existing Metrocast Cablevision Franchise Agreement

Mr. Pleva stated that the County has had a franchise with Metrocast going back to the late 90's. He stated that the last renewal expired in October. He stated that Bill Newborg of Metrocast was at the meeting to request that the Board adopt the enclosed resolution and request that they also set a public hearing on the proposed ordinance. He referred to the resolution and stated that the County Attorney has recommended a six-month time period that can always be extended at a later date. He stated that maps detailing the service area have been provided to the Board.

Mr. Newborg stated that the last franchise extension expired in 2016, so he was asking for a consent resolution to extend the term while they work through the franchise. He stated that other local counties of Middlesex, Mathews, Northumberland and Westmoreland have the same franchise.

Mr. Newborg stated that he would like to address the concerns of the citizen that spoke during the public input period. He stated that the homes per mile is based on the launch point and the entire footage and aerial coverage is significantly less expensive to install. He stated that over the last five years, they have been implementing a lot of fiber optic cable to increase the reliability. He stated that they try to get as many potential customers as possible based on the mileage. He stated that there are many FCC standards that have to be met, hence the three hundred foot limit on the service drops.

Mr. Newborg stated that the dollar amount that Mr. Bott mentioned is not for a thousand feet of construction, so his assumption would be that they would be following a pole line to get from point A to his home. He stated that he would be happy to take a look at Mr. Bott's situation and if there is something they can do, they will do it. He further stated that he is not saying anything is free. He stated that the challenge in this market is that many homes are along the water and/or have long driveways and Metrocast follows the main corridors.

Mr. Newborg stated that Metrocast pays five percent of its revenues to the state and has almost sixty employees in Virginia. He stated that Metrocast is a business and it puts money back into the communities it serves.

Mr. Lee asked how many Metrocast customers were in Lancaster County.

Mr. Newborg replied that there were approximately 4800 to 5000 customers in the County.

Mr. Bellows asked if there was information on potential growth and where Metrocast was considering future service in the County.

Mr. Newborg replied that they receive a lot of inquiries all the time from citizens and are always looking for ways to grow the business. He stated that the biggest problem is how to get from where the plant is to where the pocket of homes are. He stated that the business can't stay solvent with low densities. He stated that the company's focus for 2017 will be infrastructure and increasing bandwidth speed. He stated that if anyone has specific areas they want Metrocast to look at, he would be happy to do so.

Mr. Lee stated that the citizens of the County want reliable internet service.

Mr. Newborg stated that they are a video franchise, but a big part of their business is internet service. He stated that they need customers to support any investments they make in the infrastructure.

Mr. Bellows asked if Metrocast engaged in any public-private partnerships.

Mr. Newborg replied that there was a state funded program for non-served areas that came out recently and Metrocast partnered with two other counties- King George and Richmond County. He stated that the locality goes after the grant, the state contributes up to eighty percent and Metrocast contributes up to twenty percent.

Mr. Bellows stated that he would like to see the Board, the state and private companies putting up money to get things done, such as providing internet service to areas in the County that are currently not served. He stated that if it can be done in other areas, it can be done here.

Mr. Newborg stated that he would suggest starting small with one or two successes, then you will see the funding come.

Mr. Bellows stated that they could set aside a small portion every year from the budget to expand internet service, which is an economic development issue.

Mr. Pleva suggested that the Board adopt the resolution for extension of Metrocast service and hold the hearing for the ordinance at a later date.

Mr. Palin made a motion to Adopt the Resolution Extending the Term of the Franchise Ordinance Held by Metrocast for a Period of Six Months.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

3. Scheduling a Joint Meeting with the School Board to Review the Draft FY 2018 School Budget

Mr. Pleva stated that he had spoken with Steve Parker, Lancaster County Schools Superintendent about scheduling the joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The consensus was to hold the meeting at 4:30 p.m. at the school's annex building in Kilmarnock.

Mr. Bellows made a motion to set the joint meeting for Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

**BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Beauchamp stated that he had met with Diane Mumford, Clerk of the Circuit Court and had been advised that the state receives approximately \$30,000 in probate fees annually. He stated that there is enabling legislation that allows counties to receive one third of those probate fees and Lancaster County has never adopted it. He stated that, if there was a consensus of the Board, he would like to ask Mr. Pleva to look into the matter. There was a consensus for Mr. Pleva to look into the probate fee matter.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Pleva referred to a document at each Board member's seat. He stated that it is an annual agreement between the jurisdictions of the Bay Consortium Workforce Investment Area. He stated that there is no local money being requested, as it is state and federally funded. He suggested that the agreement be approved.

Mr. Lee made a motion to Approve the Local Elected Officials Agreement of the Bay Consortium Local Workforce Development Area.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Beauchamp to adjourn.

VOTE:	William R. Lee	Aye
	Ernest W. Palin, Jr.	Aye
	Jason D. Bellows	Aye
	B. Wally Beauchamp	Aye