

Peach County Board of Commissioners

CALLED MEETING
PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
4:00 p.m., Monday, October 25, 2021

The Peach County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting at 4:00 p.m., Monday, October 25, 2021, in Commission Chambers at 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, Georgia, with all members in attendance except Commissioner Lewis due to a conflict of interest. The purpose of the Called Meeting was to discuss a Broadband Grant Application.

Chairman Moseley stated that the Board previously sent out a request for a proposal from service providers for a Broadband Grant Application.

Commissioner Yoder advised that the County completed the Broadband Ready Certification process along with the Cities of Byron and Fort Valley and also met with interested service providers. Commissioner Yoder stated that the goal is to bring Broadband services to underserved areas of the County to adequate levels. Broadband Grant Application proposals were received from Windstream, Cox Communications, and Flint Energies.

Windstream proposes to assist Peach County in requesting a grant of \$7,905,515 from Georgia's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In order to cover the remaining portion of the estimated project costs, Windstream is proposing to provide \$7,060,519 in matching funds. The proposed project would represent a build of approximately 209 miles of fiber line.

Cox Communications proposes a project cost of \$2.7 million and the amount of contribution needed from the County is \$250,000.

Flint Energies plans to enter into a partnership with Conexon, a leader in rural broadband services, to provide services to homes and businesses throughout the County. Flint Energies plans to construct 673 miles of fiber network, which represents an investment of approximately \$14.5 million.

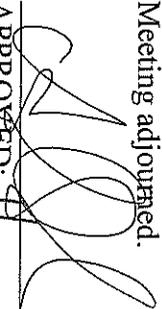
Mayor of Fort Valley, Barbara Williams, advised that the city is in the process of their own broadband grant application with another provider.

Commissioner Bryant stated that Flint seems to target those areas of concern within the County that are not inside City limits and moved to deny all proposals received. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bryant also moved to support Flint Energies in their application process and provide a letter of support as well as a contribution of \$750,000 to Flint Energies and \$250,000 to the City of Fort Valley's Broadband project. Vice-Chairwoman Hill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this Called Meeting on this date, Commissioner Yoder moved to adjourn at 4:27 p.m. Commissioner Bryant seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.


APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN

PEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: 
COUNTY CLERK