



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 314, Arlington, VA 22201

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMISSION

7:30 PM, Wednesday, March 26, 2014
1st Floor Azalea Conference Room
Courthouse Plaza (2100 Clarendon Blvd.)

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Chair: Joseph Pelton

Vice Chair: Frank Jazzo

ITAC Members Present: Larry Mayer
Anita Nolen
Ben Faatz
Kevin Robins
Tyler Carlin
Martha Moore
Mary Crannell
Phil Caughran

Members Not Present: Sal d'Itri
Jeanny Shu Ho
Kenneth Cohn

County/Schools Staff: Jack Belcher, CIO
Rob Billingsley, Cable Administrator

Cable Company Representatives: Marie Schuler, Comcast
Louise Anderson, Verizon
Donna Selden, Verizon
Doug Brammer, Verizon
David Haga, Verizon

Presenter: Jackie Steven

Members of the Public: Edna E. Johnson
B. Gail Vass

1. **Meeting called to order by Joe Pelton, ITAC Chair**

7:30 pm; Quorum Present. Meeting Agenda adopted.

2. **Public Comment**

- Edna Johnson, a resident, presented her concerns about the removal of copper cabling in the wake of Verizon FiOS installations. One of her chief concerns is what happens when power through the line is lost with newer Verizon and Comcast services that require a battery backup to maintain power if lost during a storm or due to other interfering events. As someone who uses a wheelchair, she is concerned about her safety during such an event, and her ability to communicate with emergency services. She is also concerned about the seeming lack of awareness in the community about the issue. The Chair mentioned that ITAC has been concerned about the issue for some time, and is pursuing resolutions. David Haga from Verizon responded directly to Ms. Johnson. He mentioned that there is a Battery Emergency Button that provides an additional hour of emergency power. He also mentioned there is a new feature under development that addresses the issues, and will soon be releasing it.

3. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Minutes of February, 2013 meeting were approved, pending editorial changes requested in this meeting.

4. **Administrative and Other Issues:**

- No updates on appointments, but the Chair discussed his replacement with Jay Fissette, Chairman of the County Board, who agreed that Frank Jazzo would likely replace Joseph Pelton as Chair beginning in 2015.
- Web site updates—The Cable Administrator reviewed new web pages for making complaints about TV service on the website with a more dynamic form that changes depending on the nature of the problem. He also walked through the new ITAC webpage with new locations for meeting minutes and video recorded meetings. The Cable Administrator also requested any comments utility trouble reporting which and tracking is also available as a mobile app. Members were invited to submit comments with concerns and ideas for the ITAC webpages.
- The Chair announced that there would be reception for one of the founders of the Intelligent Community Forum, Louis Zacharilla, at the Signature Theatre on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 5 pm and that ITAC members were invited. Arlington is in the top 7 of the competition for Most Intelligent Community.

5. **Legislative Updates:** Vice Chair, Frank Jazzo, provided the following:

- The FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau will be holding a workshop on "Public Safety Imperatives for All-IP Networks" on April 17-18 at the FCC Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

- FCC Commissioner Pai spoke at the 9-1-1 Goes to Washington Conference and noted that consumers are unable to directly dial 911 without an access code in many hotels and motels. The problem is being addressed, but should also be examined in other buildings, such as offices and schools.
- FCC Chairman Wheeler announced that the FCC will vote in the fall to modernize the E-Rate Program for funding of high speed broadband access for schools and libraries. The proposal would eliminate funding for paging and copper telephone networks.
- Arlington Independent Radio's application for a new low power FM (LPFM) on 96.7 MHz at Arlington was dismissed, but efforts are underway to have the application reinstated with some modifications.
- The dates for filing comments and reply comments on the FCC's Policy Statement and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to facilitate deployment of text-to-911 and other Next Generation 911 technologies were set at April 4 and May, 5, 2014, respectively.
- An emergency motion was filed at the California PUC alleging that Verizon has been allowing its copper network to deteriorate in an attempt to push landline customers to FiOS and Voice Link services.
- The Minnesota Legislature is considering a proposal to make it easier for municipalities to create broadband networks.

6. Presentations of Arlington Independent Media (AIM) Programs

- Jackie Stevens presented the history and development of AIM and its facilities since 1982. In addition to programs on TV, AIM also provides significant amounts of training in television production to residents. Individual participants in AIM have received over 40 awards. More than 17,000 programs have been produced by volunteers at AIM. Current initiatives include an annual film festival, documenting Arlington's history, Summer Video Camp, after school programs at the Key School, etc. Some future initiatives were also reviewed including an application for a low power FM Radio Station License.

7. Cable Administrator's Report (Mr. Billingsley) Cable Television Updates

- The Cable Administrator reported that while approximately 75% of the 10 year period of time for buildout has passed, Verizon construction is over 80% complete and completion of the complete buildout was currently anticipated on schedule.
- New developments re Comcast Franchise—There is nothing new to report, but meetings continue between the County and Comcast.

8. ConnectArlington Status and Telecommunications Master Plan (Billingsley)

- The Cable Administrator provided details about ConnectArlington's first stage of 50 County and Arlington Public School sites that are in various stages of completion. At this point, 41 of 50 sites are connected to their endpoint buildings. These are in various states of interconnection, splicing and testing.
- Some delays in construction are a result of weather, and VDOT permitting processes.

9. Charter for ITAC under the new County Template

- The Chair reviewed the new Charter format with the Board Liaison, Jay Fissette, and requested clarification on effects of new two year terms on the current terms of members.
- In the future, new appointments will be for two year terms.
- The new Charter will be edited to reflect minor changes and will be processed to the Board for final approval through action taken by Mr. Billingsley.

10. Arlington County Budget 2014-2015 Discussions

- Before the Board, the Chair and Vice Chair reviewed the need to address Text 911 capabilities.
- Also how the County may need to address large increases in data storage before it becomes overwhelming.
- The Chair reviewed the ITAC's concern for battery packs and continuity of power for certain classes of communication users for telephone service with both Verizon FiOS and Comcast. In general, customers do not seem to be aware of the limited life of the power source.

11. Joint effort with EPAC regarding emergency power battery systems for Verizon FIOS and Growing Concerns about phase out of Copper-based services

- The Chair offered Verizon an opportunity to comment on the ITAC comments to FCC and proposed ITAC resolution to the Board regarding sustainability of communications when affected by a power outage.
- Verizon's response was that these concerns are being addressed by FCC. Verizon has been involved with the State Corporation Commission in quarterly meetings on the issue of power sustainability.

- Verizon stated that they are working on a way to address the battery backup situation for residential installations. New technology may be available as soon as May 2014 for public presentation.
- The Chair mentioned that ITAC feels that FCC needs to do more on this issue since the technology seems to be moving more toward the fiber technology. He also posed the question of who should be responsible for maintaining power to the infrastructure, and how the Board, the State levels, and FCC should address this problem.
- Marie Schuler discussed Comcast's study about their power monitoring service, but only 13 % of the sample responded. 79% of customers stated that they would use alternative services or technology to address emergency calls if the land line went down. Thus, Comcast did not feel more needed to be done to maintain power for subscribers. Similarly, a large majority of Verizon customers in another study stated that they prefer not to purchase batteries, than to have the backup power capability.
- The Commission voted to approve the Resolution regarding the Sustainability of Communications during Power Outages (Motion: Larry Mayer, Seconded Martha Moore) subject to edits. Coordination with EPAC on this matter will also be undertaken.

12. Status of Joint Working Group on IT Services with the Schools

- The Chair mentioned how this group continues to meet to discuss: a paper describing the importance of virtual high schools to save tax dollars, and other advanced programs for high school students through local higher education resources. The Chair mentioned that the County Board wanted to know if the Superintendent was taking up the issue of virtual high schools. The Chair hopes that it will be taken to the School Board, the Superintendent and the IT Committee at Public Schools for serious consideration.
- There are also some security technology issues in schools that the Joint Group continues to pursue.

13. Adjournment: 9:00 pm