



7:30 PM, Wednesday, January 27, 2015
Azalea Conference Room CHP Lobby
Courthouse Plaza (2100 Clarendon Blvd.)

MEETING MINUTES

In attendance:

Chair: Frank Jazzo

ITAC Members Present: Mary Crannell, Vice Chair (on Phone)
Martha Moore (on Phone)
Dan Laredo
Joshua Farrar
Robert Schill
Kevin Robins

Members Not Present:

Ben Faatz
David Husband
Anita Nolen
Kenneth Cohn
Phil Caughran
William Lang

County/Schools Staff:

Rob Billingsley, Cable Administrator
Jack Belcher, CIO

Cable Company Representatives:

Louise Anderson, Verizon
Doug Brammer, Verizon
John Scheid, Verizon
Jim Dalton, Verizon
Julie Ardent, Verizon
Marie Schuler, Comcast

1. **Meeting called to order by Frank Jazzo, ITAC Chair**
7:30 pm; Quorum Not Present; Meeting Agenda acknowledged, but not approved.
2. **Public Comment: None.**
3. **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:** December 2015 Minutes not approved, but will take up when ITAC has a quorum.

4. Administrative and Other Issues:

- The Chair reviewed the basic meeting schedule as the 4th Wednesday of every month, and the Cable Administrator reviewed the list of dates for 2016 with locations to be finalized.
- Next Meeting for February 24, 2016 will be in the Third Floor Conference Room, 311.
- ITAC is at full strength with the appointment of Dan Lorado, at the November County Board Meeting, November 17, 2015
- Good of the Order, Technical Issues
 - Member Moore had brought up a recent article about software bugs in home wireless routers, and was concerned about the routers provided by Comcast and Verizon to customers, and their susceptibility to hackers. Marie Schuler of Comcast had seen the article and passed it on to other staff to obtain a response, but has not received a response. Similarly Louise Anderson checked with Verizon staff who were aware of the problem and checking with router suppliers to ensure the bug was not in their equipment.

5. Verizon Network Transformation initiative: (John Scheid, Verizon)

John Scheid provided a presentation of Verizon's initiative to replace copper wiring with fiber cabling to the home. Some major points of his discussion included:

- The required fiber transition does not change the copper based telephone service; it will not change subscribers to FiOS customers, unless they request it.
- The conversion will not be done for all of Arlington at once, but in phases, going from one wiring center to the next. They are currently working on homes now that are attached to the Falls Church and Columbia Pike Wiring Centers. The next wiring centers will be the Arlington Central and others in South Arlington.
- Phone service will no longer be centrally powered, but will use the subscriber's home electric service, with 24 hour D Battery backup devices.
- Subscribers will be notified several times over a 45 day period, requesting their consent, according to a specific "Communications Plan." Those who do not consent may have their service terminated.
- The conversion project is not a marketing effort to obtain more FiOS customers, but the conversion will make a home "FiOS – ready" reducing time of installation should a subscriber decide to have the FiOS service.
- Verizon has set a goal to convert ALL wiring centers from copper to fiber.

In the discussion, Doug Brammer, Verizon, acknowledged that Verizon is aware of the density of underground infrastructure in Fairlington and the challenges to install without interfering with other utilities.

6. Legislative Update: (Mr. Jazzo)

- Comcast is testing DOCSIS 3.1 modems, which are designed to support capacities of 10 Gbps down and 1 Gbps upstream.
- LinkNYC is rolling out free gigabit WiFi across New York City at former phone booth locations.
- AT&T announced a major “Smart Cities” push at CES 2016.
- The 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the FCC in a tower siting case with Montgomery County, Maryland, upholding the FCC’s policies to streamline deployment of wireless broadband.
- It now appears that AT&T is more likely to bid on the FirstNet buildout RFP and it looks less likely that Verizon will. FirstNet expects teams of companies to pursue the RFP.
- Verizon is making 50 Mbps its default beginning speed option for residential customers.
- Ericsson and AT&T have teamed up on a sustainable city initiative designed to bring connectivity to monitor water quality for the city of Atlanta.
- The FCC initiated a rulemaking to improve security of the Emergency Alert service (EAS).
- Security firm Rapid7 put out a report indicating that there are vulnerabilities in the Comcast Xfinity Home platform.
- The FCC’s Phase II E911 location accuracy rules became effective January 18, 2016.

7. Cable Administrator’s Report: (Billingsley)

- Rob Billingsley, Cable Administrator reported that he will be accompanying Verizon at the Fairlington Community Center in response to their Civic Association request to discuss how and when the buildout of FiOS will occur.
- Billingsley reported that according to statistics provided, Verizon is about 94% complete in the 10-year buildout of FiOS in the County.
- Billingsley also reviewed legislation in Richmond that may change the criteria of houses per mile that cable providers must meet in their installations. By increasing that number under consideration, more houses could be connected in sparsely developed areas, rural areas. Billingsley will circulate the legislation that he has been reviewing to the ITAC members.

8. Update on ConnectArlington (including dark fiber) (Belcher)

- County is in the process of completing the pulling of the fiber for economic development purposes. It will take a few months to complete splicing of the segments together because there is so much fiber (864 strands).
- In a related matter, the CIO of Virginia Beach has released a broadband strategy that includes collaboration with the academic and private sectors, and wants Virginia Beach to become a transatlantic hub with connections to Internet 2.

9. Adjournment: ITAC adjourned at 8:56 pm.