

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Information Technology Advisory Commission  
(ITAC)  
Wednesday 7:30 pm  
February 28th, 2018  
Arlington County Courthouse Building  
Room 311  
Arlington County, VA 22201

In attendance:

Chair: Frank Jazzo

ITAC Members Present: Mary Crannell, Vice Chair (via phone)  
Phil Caughran  
Josh Farrar  
Dr. Denise Haskins  
Dr. William Lang  
Dan Laredo  
Martha Moore  
Anita Nolen  
Kevin Robins  
David Husband  
Not Present: Patrick South

Others present:

Jack Belcher, CIO  
Holly Hartell, DTS Digital Destiny  
George Parr, DTS Staff Liaison  
Louise Anderson, Verizon  
John Burke, Resident

1. Meeting Called to Order - A quorum was present at 7:30 pm
2. Public Comment - None
3. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting (January 24, 2018) -  
The draft agenda for this meeting and the draft minutes from the prior meeting were approved without comment.

4. DTS CIO Report (Jack Belcher)

- The County Manager's proposed FY 19 budget required a 7% cut by each department in the County to help reduce the \$20 million funding gap. A total of 48 staff positions were eliminated.
- The gap is largely due to high vacancy rates in commercial properties, the need to fund Metro's increased costs and the necessity to fund Arlington Public Schools (APS) expanding enrollments.
- Mr. Belcher said that last week the County Board voted not to raise the tax rate. He added they can lower it but it can't go any higher than it was. That means revenue for the County will remain the same at the proposed tax rate.
- In the proposed budget, DTS had three positions eliminated: two in PRISM and the Cable Administrator.
- Cost savings will also come from reducing the number of hours that DTS's Help Desk is available to employees. The Help Desk has been operating 24/7 but as of FY19, it will be available only during working hours M-F. DTS's emergency response capability will remain ready to respond around the clock 24/7 in the event of an emergency or outage.
- Mr. Belcher said his department has a 30% vacancy rate as he only has four of the eleven members of his management team in place. He said it's very hard to attract talent to Arlington County Government. Arlington Police and Fire have had a significant loss of people too. Better salaries elsewhere and high costs of living in Arlington are partly to blame.
- Mr. Belcher added that very soon the last two schools (Claremont and Wakefield) will be connected to ConnectArlington. Meanwhile APS has 12 schools that remain on INET and Comcast wants those back ASAP.
- The CMO also proposed cutting Arlington Independent Media's budget by \$90,000, which is significant and when combined with AIM now having to pay rent could mean the end of the PEG channel according to its Executive Director Paul LeValley.
- DTS will present its budget to the County Board at a Budget Workshop on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Belcher and ITAC Chair Frank Jazzo will attend.
- On the topic of ConnectArlington, Mr. Belcher said that the CMO had appointed a special broadband access committee to study the questions: why hasn't the dark fiber been licensed and why hasn't it spurred economic development? The committee has met on three occasions and is about to issue their recommendations to the CMO. ITAC Vice Chair Mary Crannell, who was appointed to the committee, said we have a super highway but don't have any

(continued from page 2) on and off ramps. The question is how easily can we offer incentives to those who create laterals to build them so that others can access the network.

- Mr. Belcher said the committee debated the question of what role the government should play in providing broadband services. Some of the committee members say sell it, get out...the government has no business offering such service while others say government has a role and should be controlling it. Regardless, he said that what we have now is not working largely due to government policy and procedure, which is very slow, if not impossible to change. One solution might be to create a Broadband Authority, which is being done by about 25 cities and counties statewide, that would operate independent of the County Government. One caveat: it could not undermine the private sector by charging less for its services.

5. Cable Administrator's Report (George Parr)

- Up until the end of December 2017, Comcast provided AIM office and studio space rent free for many years in the building the two occupied on Wilson Boulevard. Comcast has vacated the building but still has a lease through 2019, so they proposed a month-to-month sub lease to AIM that would have rent back dated to January of this year. (In last year's budget, the County Board approved \$110,000 in funding to help AIM meet its expected rent obligations for the first half of 2018).
- On January 31<sup>st</sup>, AIM's Paul LeValley met with Bill Buck, the new owner of the building they occupy on Wilson Boulevard. Mr. Buck, a native of Arlington, said he would like for AIM to remain in the building following the expiration of Comcast's lease in 2019 or earlier should there be a buyout. Should Comcast reach an agreement with Mr. Buck to terminate their lease early, then AIM would be free to negotiate with Mr. Buck a new prime lease for the space just as they would when Comcast's lease terminates in 2019.
- All County Commissions are required to submit an annual report to the County Board by the end of March. A draft report was shared and a motion to approve the draft with editorial privileges was passed. (After the meeting, the draft was sent to each ITAC Commissioner requesting review and changes. A few spelling errors were corrected and the final annual report was submitted to the County Board on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>).

ITAC

February 28, 2018

Page 4

6. Administrative and Other Issues:

- A question was asked about the status of ITAC's recommendation to the County Board that was made last year to introduce legislation in the state general assembly that would lift restrictions on a municipality's ability to operate a broadband fiber network and offer its services to the private sector. The Cable Administrator said he would make an inquiry and report back at the March ITAC meeting

7. Verizon Update – Construction coming to an end in South Fairlington. Construction in North Fairlington is next. Verizon's move to 5G for streaming video was discussed. Louise Anderson scheduled a meeting with the Cable Administrator to review Verizon's build out and service map of Arlington County.

8. Comcast Update – No Report – Not in attendance

9. Regulatory and Legislative Update (Frank Jazzo)

- At its January 30 meeting, the FCC adopted rules to enhance the effectiveness of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs), including improving the geographic accuracy of WEAs.
- The FCC's decision rolling back Title II common carrier regulation of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), commonly called "Net Neutrality" rules, has been published in the Federal Register, providing that the FCC's decision becomes effective April 23, 2018. The publication sets the deadlines for filing appeals of the decision.
- A Congressional resolution to roll back the FCC's Net Neutrality decision has been introduced.
- The FCC adopted its annual report on cable prices, noting an average annual increase for basic service of 4.4%.
- The FCC is proposing two spectrum auctions later this year (24 GHz and 28 GHz) for 5G services

ITAC

February 28, 2018

Page 5

10. Good of the Order

During the DTS CIO report, there was general discussion about health care and community services' needs for broadband services. Mr. Belcher mentioned that last year Arlington County's Public Health Division launched Destination 2027, which uses feedback from community members to compile data about health in the Arlington County community and information about how well its local public health system is meeting national standards to identify how the Public Health Division can work with, and empower, Arlington residents and community based organizations to improve public health.

Arlington Public Health is using the National Association of County and City Health Officials' process, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP), to guide Destination 2027 work. This process provides a comprehensive picture of health and wellbeing in Arlington County and how health care will look 10 years from today. <https://health.arlingtonva.us/pha/community-assessment/>

ITAC Commissioner Dr. William Lang, MD, a family physician with INOVA, said health care is very dependent on access to broadband service, which is a problem in Fairfax County where INOVA operates 300 facilities and broadband is sparse. He said that there will be a huge explosion in the implementation of telemedicine, which will create an even greater demand for broadband service.

11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

