

**At a Community Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors  
Held in the General District Courtroom, Sussex Judicial Center on  
Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

T. Wayne Birdsong  
Wayne M. Harrell

Charlie E. Caple, Jr.  
Harris L. Parker

C. Eric Fly  
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.

**STAFF PRESENT**

George E. Morrison, III, Deputy County Administrator  
Henry A. Thompson, Sr., County Attorney  
Jerry L. Whitaker, Director of Finance  
Deborah A. Davis, Assistant to County Administrator

**Item 1. Call To Order**

The January 21, 2010 public meeting was called to order by Chairman Fly.

**Item 2) Overview of the Proposed Telecommunications Planning Grant**

Mr. George E. Morrison, III, Deputy County Administrator, provided a status report regarding the broadband planning grant.

- September 30, 2009: Staff submitted the broadband planning grant letter of interest to the Department of Housing and Community Development requesting CDBG Planning Grant assistance for the proposed Community Telecommunications Planning Project.
- November 30, 2009: Staff received a response to the initial request for a 2009 Community Development Block Grant for broadband implementation within the County of Sussex, Virginia dated November 23, 2009 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The letter informed that the County's request for CDBG Planning Grant assistance for the proposed implementation of broadband was reviewed and \$3,000 is reserved in Planning Grant funding to reimburse the County for the completion of several activities by March 1, 2010. The following activities must be completed:
  - 1) Completion of an initial management team meeting, which was held on January 6, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.
  - 2) Completion of an initial public meeting (which we are holding now).
  - 3) Completion of business needs surveys (to determine if local businesses need or want broadband). The surveys will be accepted until February 12, 2010. (An

extension may be requested because the responses to the surveys are being returned very slowly).

- 4) Draft RFP for professional services to be prepared in February. The County must hire a professional consultant to prepare the telecommunications plan.
- 5) Completion of a second management team meeting, to be scheduled in February 2010.

### **Item 3. Public Comments/Questions**

Comments were heard from Mr. Raymond Covington, who provided the Board a copy of an article entitled "Rural America Severely Hurt By Lack of Broadband." (A copy is retained in the January 21, 2010 Public Meeting file).

Mr. Morrison added that regional efforts among Sussex Surry and Greensville may need to be considered.

### **Item 4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.