

ORIGINAL

**WEAKLEY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FIBER RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, May 14, 2020 – 3:00 PM – County Commission Court Room, Courthouse, Dresden, TN

Fiber Research Committee Members Present: Commissioners David Bell, Gary Eddings, Roger Donaldson, Dennis Doster, and County Mayor Jake Bynum

Fiber Research Committee Members Absent: None

The Weakley County Fiber Research Committee met on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 9:00 AM in the Earl Wright County Commission Court Room at the Courthouse in Dresden. Others present included Director of Finance John Liggett, WK&T CEO Trevor Bonnstetter, WK&T Operations Manager Stacey Riley, Commissioner Eric Owen, and two representatives of the media.

I-II. CALL TO ORDER – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Bell called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 22, 2020, and with a second by Commissioner Eddings, the motion passed unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF EDA FEDERAL GRANT

Chairperson Bell began by explaining that a new opportunity had opened up to apply for a rural build in an area between Martin and Dresden through EDA and CARES Act funding. He went on to say that the build out would cover 120 miles and that the three-way match would include a \$2 million investment from the county, the state, and WK&T.

There was discussion regarding the details of the application, current agreement, future budgeting, timeline of the project, estimates, interest rates, and uncertainty of the economy relative to COVID-19. Commissioner Doster talked about poor cell reception and service in his district and there was discussion on solutions. Commissioner Donaldson recommended that hot spots are important and should be a part of the grant and/or implemented in various spots of the county.

Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to recommend the application for the 3-way partnership grant through EDA to the full county commission, and with a second by Commissioner Eddings, the motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None

VI. ADJOURN

Having no other business, Commissioner Donaldson made the motion to adjourn, and with a second by Commissioner Doster, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Erica Moore, Secretary
Fiber Research Committee

Approved:



David Bell, Chairperson
Fiber Research Committee

Date: 9-17-20