

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Ross, Board Member  
Paul Trampe, Board Member  
Larry K. Pritchett, Treasurer  
Debbie Williams, Commissioner of Revenue  
Mark Cole, Deputy County Administrator  
Mary Sorrell, Finance Director

**OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Annette D'Alessandro, Grants Manager  
Jay Cullinan, FREMS Chief  
Chris Edwards, Division Director Utilities  
Jane Reeve, Chief Information Officer

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**Grant Application Request for the FY 2018 Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund for Motts Run Dam Break Inundation Zone Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization**

Chris Edwards, Division Director Utilities, explained that a grant was available through the Virginia Dam Safety, Flood Prevention, and Protection Assistance Fund to make matching grants to local governments owning existing dams to improve dam safety and/or to assist local governments with improvements to flood prevention and protection. Grants from the Fund require a 50% cash match of the total project costs.

Mr. Edwards explained that Utilities would like to submit an application for consideration under the dam safety component for Motts Run Dam. If approved, this funding would assist the County and the City in hiring an engineering firm to assist in the Motts Run Dam Break Inundation Zone Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization as required by recent modifications to the Code of Virginia. The estimated cost for this work is \$45,749. If this application request is approved, the County and City would seek grant funding in the amount of \$22,874. Both the County and City would each provide \$11,438 for the local match portion.

On a motion by Mr. Pritchett, seconded by Mr. Ross and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the request to apply for the FY18 Virginia Dam Safety grant.

**Acceptance and Budget Adjustment for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's 2018 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative Grant Award and Acceptance of the Comcast Memorandum of Understanding**

Jane Reeve, Chief Information Officer, explained that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded \$978,559 to four localities as part of its Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) to provide last-mile broadband services to unserved areas of the state. Spotsylvania County, along with its project partner Comcast, was one of the four localities, being awarded a total of \$167,260 in state funds to provide last-mile broadband service along Towles Mill Road.

Ms. Reeve explained that the Department of Information Services and Comcast have partnered for the VATI award, with Comcast providing the construction and Spotsylvania County managing the grant requirements. The VATI program requires a minimum match of 20% of total project costs, which Comcast will meet by providing \$200,503, or 55% of the total project cost. No local funding is required from Spotsylvania County, but the County will provide in-kind services through use of personnel time associated with the project. After the grant award period expires, there will be no on-going costs for Spotsylvania County.

Ms. Reeve explained that there are a total of 207 residential locations (153 with homes and 54 empty lots) within the proposed service area in Spotsylvania County and that Comcast proposes to expand its network so that each of these 207 locations are serviceable. According to Comcast's video franchise, all homes within 275 feet of the public right of way will not incur any additional cost for installation. Of the existing 153 homes, 127 are within a 275' distance from the road and would be connected to Comcast's network with no customer contribution. The remaining 26 homes are located in excess of the 275' from the road center. While these homes would be serviceable, customers may be required to provide a contribution in aid of the construction to the home. Comcast will provide each home with a contribution estimate, if any, prior to construction.

On a motion by Ms. Williams, seconded by Dr. Trampe and passed unanimously, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the acceptance of the VATI Grant and the associated budget amendment and appropriation.

### **Other Business:**

#### **SAFER Grant Opportunity**

Jay Cullinan, FREMS Chief, explained that he would like to seek the Board's approval to submit a request to fund ten additional firefighter/medics through the SAFER grant. However, because of the timing of the grant application deadline, he does not have the necessary details to present a completed grant application request to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Cullinan reminded the Finance Committee members about recent FY 2019 budget discussions concerning the need to hire an additional twenty one (21) firefighter/medics. Based on conversations to date, he feels that it may be unlikely that he will receive approval by the Board to hire all twenty one positions in the FY 2019 Budget, so he would like to submit a request to fund ten of those positions through SAFER. The SAFER grant applications are due in April and notification of grant awards would occur in the September/October timeframe. If the County were to receive a SAFER grant award, he would plan to hire the SAFER positions on January 1, 2019. Any positions approved in the FY 2019 Budget, would be hired July 1, 2018.

If approved the SAFER grant would provide up to 75% of the salary and benefits for the ten positions requested for the first two years and then up to 35% of the salary and benefits for the third year. The County would be required to pay the balance of the salary and benefits and all equipment and operational supplies associated with each of the positions. In total, if all ten positions are approved, the grant could provide approximately \$1.2 Million over four fiscal years.

Staff explained that the grant application will require a resolution of support from the Board of Supervisors. Because the SAFER grant application requires an extensive amount of work, staff is planning to present details about the grant and request the Board's approval of the resolution of support at the April 10, 2018 Board meeting, prior to the next Finance Committee meeting. This will ensure Board's support of the grant application, prior to staff spending a significant amount of time finalizing the work necessary to complete the grant submission. The Finance Committee members expressed no concern with staff's plan of action.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. Sorrell adjourned the meeting.