



Orange County Broadband Authority

Regular Meeting

Monday April 12, 2021 – 6:30PM

6:30PM:

1. Call to Order: Jim White, Board Chair

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. New Business

- a. Reassign the Federal Engineering Contract from Orange County Broadband Authority to Orange County – Eric Lansing, Legal Counsel.

4. Old Business

- a. Approval of minutes from Broadband Authority meetings on January 25, 2021, February 23, 2021 (Special Meeting), March 23, 2021, and April 5, 2021.

- b. Public Hearing on Rates

- i. Public Comments

1. Comment from Chris and Jessie Graves and Will and Iris Burke by email:

“Good Morning, we would like to express our appreciation to the Broadband Authority Board and Staff. You all have worked diligently and swiftly to provide a much-needed service to the Community in somewhat short order over the last year. We also support the monthly fees for which you are providing the service and hope that these costs will not increase dramatically over the coming years as more infrastructure is installed. For the services provided and costs for installation your pricing approach is very affordable. Thank you all for your hard work. Providing this service in a rural community like ours is something to be proud of. Lewis and his Staff are wonderful to work with and very helpful in providing information. I cannot say enough how thankful we are and very excited! Thank you, Chris & Jessie Graves & Will and Iris Burke.”

2. Comment from Larry Norem by email: “COMMENTS TO ORANGE COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY REGARDING Resolution 2021-01 FiberLync, 4/5/21, from Larry Norem The FiberLync *Internet Services Subscriber Agreement, 20. Obligations Regarding Taxes* indicates that the customer pays any and all local exchange carrier assessed charges, federal, state, local domestic or international governmental and regulatory taxes, permit fees, sales, use excise, gross receipts, privilege or other similar taxes; charges mandated or permitted by regulatory agencies, and Universal Service Fund charges, plus any reasonable



administrative charge FiberLync may establish for its customers for administering these pass-through charges. This sounds exactly like a high-priced commercial internet provider statement, i.e., FiberLync can add on any fee it wants to at any time it wants to. If the customer is locked into a two-year agreement, he would be obligated to pay whatever extra fee FiberLync wants to add on for the duration. There is no end to what this could wind up costing as I see similar fees continue to increase on my cell phone bill. Orange County residents should know what all the taxes and extra fees will cost, for example as of today, 4/5/21, in addition to the monthly service charges quoted on the FiberLync website. Residents have a right to know up front what the “total cost of service” will be before they contract for these services. If you do not plan to charge all these fees, then that verbiage should be removed from the agreement. We heard in the beginning that Orange County broadband would be a low-cost service, so we were in favor of it. We are currently using a Jetpack and paying \$50 per month (with no taxes or numerous other fees) and getting faster speed than what FiberLync is offering; compared to this FiberLync is not a low-cost service. Credit card and bank deductions are the only methods of payment, but for people who do not use automatic payments / deductions, we feel it is important for them to have the option of being billed monthly and paying by check. This alone may keep some people from contracting for broadband services. QUESTIONS (not explicitly answered on website): If a person pays the standard installation fee [\$480] up front, is there still a 2-year contract? How does one know if his property would need a trench or boring method of fiber installation? Can the hardware be connected to an outlet in a garage? When would you have to do any fishing of wires through walls?”

- c. Close Public Hearing on Rates and Approve FiberLync Rates

5. Other Business

- a. Financial Update: Barbara Tilley – Treasurer/Controller
- b. Program Manager Update: Lewis Foster, Secretary/Broadband Program Manager
 - i. Project Summary
 - ii. Subscriber Update
 - iii. Startup Schedule
- c. Update Orange County Broadband Authority By-Laws – Eric Lansing, Legal Counsel

6. Informational Items

7. Adjourn



Note: This meeting will be conducted remotely and there will be no physical public access. During this meeting, there will be no opportunity for public comment. The meeting may be viewed via live stream at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCry5ZgOLHh0SJvObIBjTvow/featured>