



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD**  
**BROADBAND TASK FORCE AGENDA**  
**County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

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Shields-Carter Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

**MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on March 10, 2025**

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Members Present: Stephanie Burnett, Bailey Conrady, M.C. Neal, Mike Smeltzer, Eric Thorsland, and Jeff Wilson

Members Absent: Samantha Carter and Lorraine Cowart

Others Present: Tim Arbeiter (Finley Engineering), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Kait Kuzio (Grant Coordinator), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

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**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Conrady called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Mr. Thorsland to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. August 5, 2024

Chair Conrady brought attention to the misspelling of her name on line 208 of the minutes.

**MOTION** by Mr. Smeltzer approve the minutes of August 5, 2024 as amended; seconded by Mr. Neal. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**V. Public Participation**

None

**VI. Communications**

Chair Conrady mentioned her recent conversations with the Broadband Lab and the Office of Broadband regarding easements.

**VII. New Business**

A. Volo Proposal

1. Option 1 – Build an additional 180 miles of underground distribution fiber optic infrastructure
2. Option 2 – Build an additional 36 miles of underground fiber optic backbone and 80 miles of underground distribution fiber optic infrastructure

Peter Folk, CEO of Volo Broadband, gave a presentation showing the work that has already been completed, the next phase of work to be completed and the options available to be completed with the additional funding. He listed the pros and cons of each option.

Task Force members continued to discuss the options. Mr. Neal stated he is leaning towards option one because it would utilize more of the funding and connects more customers. Mr. Thorsland was leaning towards option two because that would build a good backbone, and they could come back later to build smaller pieces off that backbone. Mr. Smeltzer asked about the funding differences and Mr. Folk explained that they are using all of the ARPA funds in both options.

Mr. Folk also explained that his company would not be able to build the backbone without grant or ARPA funding, but they would be able to expand off of that backbone with smaller projects in the future. Mr. Wilson expressed his preference for option two because of the future options it would create for broadband access.

B. Choose option 1 or 2 for recommendation to the County Board

Chair Conrady polled the Task Force members, asking them to state which option they would choose. The poll showed 5 members chose option two and 1 member chose option one. They will forward option two to the County Board for approval.

**VIII. Other Business**

A. Date of next meeting

To be determined when needed.

**IX. Chair's Report**

Chair Conrady will be on maternity leave, and unavailable, beginning in May.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Conrady adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.