

1 | **Economic Development Authority**
Town of Appomattox, Virginia
August 11, 2026

A meeting of the Economic Development Authority of the Town of Appomattox was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Municipal Building, 210 Linden Street, Appomattox, Virginia.

Members present: Mr. James J. Boyce, Sr., Mr. Ronald M. Coleman, Jr., Dr. Zamora Crawford Olin, Mrs. Donna Preston, Ms. Mary Lou Spiggle, Mr. Kiva Preston

Members absent: none

Others: Christy Torrence, Office Manager; Dianne Tanner, Deputy Clerk; Kelly Hitchcock, CVPDC; Ada Hunsberger, CVPDC; Nathan Simpson, Morningside Fiber

Chairman Zamora Olin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

On a motion made by Donna Preston, seconded by Marylou Spiggle, all members approved an amended agenda striking items 4,7 and 8 from August 11, 2026, Economic Development Authority meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

All members approved the minutes from the June 9, 2026, meeting as presented.

Financial Report:

The Town Economic Development Authority received the Financial Report with a balance of \$10,093.42 as of July 31, 2026.

Unfinished Business:

The Chairman presented the unfinished business item, information about ride share opportunities. Ada Hunsberger, Commuter Assistance Program Manager with Central Virginia Planning District Commission provided a PowerPoint with an overview of the program. A copy of the presentation is maintained with the official meeting records. Ada introduced Virginia's ConnectingVA app to find carpools, vanpools, transit options, or biking and walking routes in their area. Employers can receive services at no-cost to help implement commuter benefit programs, gather employee commuting data and more.

New Business:

The Chairman presented the new business item, Mr. Nathan Simpson will brief the EDA on a private-sector fiber project and how it could help improve broadband options inside the Town of Appomattox. Nathan provided a package with a briefing on his idea for fast, fair fiber for the

Town of Appomattox. A copy of the packet used during his briefing is maintained with the official meeting records.

Nathan started his presentation by explaining that we are surrounded by fiber internet but in the town we have cable internet which does not work for his business. This motivated him to look into how to get fiber internet to his house. There is fiber in the ground that is paid for and not being used. The Trump administration is deregulating to get areas serviced; because of this, we can get to apartments and some businesses without putting a shovel in the ground. Nathan said that he is not asking for money, but good will, a thumbs up that the town supports it.

EDA Members had several questions.

Zamora: What is your organizational structure?

Nathan: Started in web design with a government contract and then started doing e-discovery and litigation support and needed fiber.

Zamora: Who's doing the work?

Nathan: Lumos will be doing the fiber splicing.

Zamora: How big is your team?

Nathan: A team of one (only Nathan) and doesn't have a Board of Directors at this time.

Mary Lou: Are you FCC approved?

Nathan: Doesn't have to have a franchise agreement because they aren't offering phone service starting off, but will happen quickly once structure is in place.

Zamora: Do you have an operational strategy?

Nathan: Plan A-30-45 days will be the exploratory/design phase with the school system. Plan B- The current owner of dormant fiber is Wind Stream; Unti fiber has made an offer on taking it over, but it is not very competitive.

Mary Lou: Do you have to have right of way?

Nathan: We don't; The General Assembly, trying to enable fiber deployment, is allowing parallel use of VDOT right of way.

Jim: Where would the server be located?

Nathan: It depends on where it is cheapest to bore under the street but likely a deeded lot behind my property.

Jim: Any extra power needs?

Nathan: No; it will use under 1100 watts total.

Zamora: You have mentioned multiple stakeholders—the school, county, and the town. Have you approached the county?

Nathan: Yes and no. The county owns a very small portion; everything else was federally funded and is owned by the school system. Town only owns 1,000 feet of conduit on Lee Grant Ave.

Zamora: How do you plan to navigate this being a Board member?

Nathan: We won't lease the county owned fiber but will lease the fiber owned by the School Board. They are two separate political subdivisions.

Zamora: What is your break-even point?

Nathan: Break even likely with the first 400 depending on the take rate. Could charge a connection fee to subsidize if the take rate is low.

Jim: Shentel can't do this?

Nathan: Shentel has Glofiber and can absolutely do this. They have no incentive to build in Appomattox.

Zamora: You mentioned impact to water and sewer.

Nathan: We hope to not impact water and sewer. Coordination with the Town is incredibly important.

Ron: You mentioned that rural areas are subsidized. When do they have to pay full price?

Nathan: With Firefly, they are safe because they can't run corporate style profits.

Jim: Tonight's ask—a letter of support—what's it for?

Nathan: I met with the school superintendent and will be on their agenda, but the superintendent wanted me to make sure the town was supportive. Without the town as a partner, it won't happen. It will only be used for school board support.

Zamora: As an economic standpoint, I think this is a good idea. I would like to speak with Mike and get his input.

Ron: I would like to go ahead with the letter. I see this as up and up and getting service to the people.

Jim: I would like to bring Mike into the conversation. He knows firsthand the ends and outs. I also know it is needed.

Mary Lou : It is an important decision when we give our blessing. I agree with Jim; we need to talk to Mike.

Kiva: Seems like a good idea. I also, would like to talk to Mike.

Zamora: Support in my opinion sees beyond the head nod. I would like to table the discussion and bring Nathan back to next meeting with Michael.

On a motion made by Donna Preston, seconded by Ron Coleman, EDA voted to table item #5, review of applications and recommendations for appointment to fill EDA vacancy.

Zamora requested that Christy send an email to all applicants explaining that a decision has not yet been made and thanking them for their continued interest.

EDA Member Comments:

Mary Lou Spiggle – none

Ron Coleman-none

Kiva Preston-none

Zamora Olin-none

Donna Preston-none

Jim Boyce-none

Adjournment:

By agreement of all the membership, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.