

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-34

A Resolution concerning

RURAL BROADBAND EXPANSION

WHEREAS, County Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland, a body corporate and politic of the State of Maryland (“County”) identified broadband access as a goal within their 2019-2021 strategic plan, in recognition of the crucial link to information provided by meaningful connectivity to the internet, and the plight suffered by County residents that do not currently have broadband internet service available at their residences and places of business; and

WHEREAS, The County commissioned a Broadband Taskforce in 2019 to assist with addressing the need for broadband expansion in unserved and underserved areas within the County, to include development of a County Broadband Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, ThinkBig Networks, LLC (“ThinkBig”), a Maryland internet service provider specializing in Fiber-to-the-Premises fiber optic communication delivery, was awarded a grant by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development – Governor’s Office of Rural Broadband in the amount of Two Million Nine Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Eighty Three Dollars (\$2,924,083.00), to construct a quality, State-of-the-Art, Fiber-to-the-Premises broadband network to 1,408 unserved locations in Nanjemoy and Cobb Neck (“the Project”); and

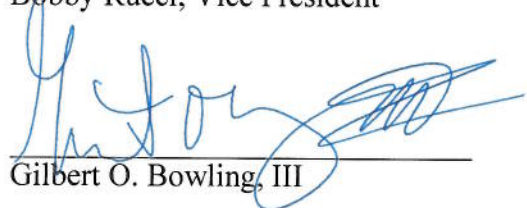
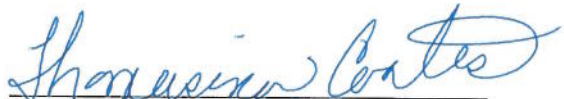
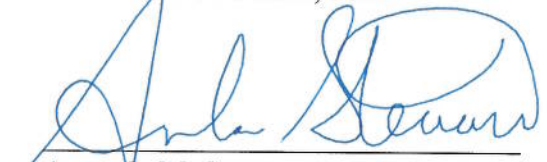
WHEREAS, the grant award by the State of Maryland to ThinkBig is predicated on local funding by the County for the Project in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Two Dollars (\$2,598,802.00); and

WHEREAS, County staff and ThinkBig have conducted thorough and meaningful negotiations of the terms and conditions of a Public-Private Partnership Fiber Network Agreement and Fiber Optic Sale and Maintenance Agreement in consideration of the County funding, and deem the agreements to be to the mutual benefit of the parties, and recommend execution of said agreements by the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 15th day of December 2020, that the Public-Private Partnership Fiber Network Agreement and Fiber Optic Sale and Maintenance Agreement between the County and ThinkBig are approved and the President of the County Commissioners is hereby authorized to execute the agreements on behalf of the County.

ADOPTED this 15th day of December 2020.

County Commissioners of
Charles County, Maryland


Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President
Bobby Rucci, Vice President
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

ATTEST:


Carol DeSoto, Clerk to the Commissioners