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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

A) Application for Certificate of
Authority to Provide Telecommunications Service.

DOCKET NO.	COMPANY NAME
20200225-TX	Branch Communications, LLC
20200229-TX	Uniti National LLC

PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 1 - CONSENT AGENDA

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN
COMMISSIONER DONALD J. POLMANN
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY

DATE: Tuesday, December 1, 2020

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
114 W. 5TH AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Good morning once
3 again. It's good to see everybody back, everybody
4 made it back from a short break.

5 We are going to go ahead and begin our Agenda
6 Conference today. We are be going to begin with an
7 invocation led by Commissioner Graham, and then we
8 are going to ask you to join for the Pledge of
9 Allegiance as well.

10 Commissioner Graham.

11 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 Could I get you to bow your heads, please, and
13 someone to turn that phone off? Thanks.

14 (Invocation.)

15 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I
16 apologize. I am waiting for all this noise to get
17 off the line. Okay.

18 (Invocation.)

19 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: If I could get you to
20 face the flags, please.

21 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Graham.

24 In sticking with the spirit of the day, we are
25 having -- we've had quite a bit of recognition

1 today, and we are going to continue that. It's a
2 sad day that we recognize Commissioner Polmann as
3 he is leaving the Commission, but I do want to say
4 for just a couple of moments just to let you know
5 how much you have meant to this commission, how
6 much you have meant to me personally as a mentor.
7 I cannot think of anyone that I have ever met that
8 had the amount of knowledge that Dr. Polmann has
9 when it comes to the utility world. You have just
10 been an absolute inspiration and a true friend, and
11 I want to thank you for that.

12 I also -- we have a couple of special
13 recognitions, or special awards we want to present
14 today, and in doing so, I have asked Commissioner
15 Brown if she would to prepare to present the first
16 award.

17 I think I did this docket because -- we picked
18 Commissioner Brown because she's the one that
19 always kind of kept you in line. We always made
20 her sit really close to you to kind of keep you
21 nudged and pushed up, so we are going to give
22 Commissioner Brown this great honor this morning.

23 Commissioner Brown.

24 COMMISSIONER BROWN: That's funny.

25 No, but, Doc, we do have a special

1 relationship. All of us each individually does
2 have a very special relationship. And as the
3 Chairman said, it is a bittersweet day as this
4 marks your last Agenda Conference. You are one of
5 our own -- you are one of our own, you know, and
6 normally we would be able to be together shaking
7 hands, hugging each other and celebrating a very
8 successful term and looking forward to the future
9 for you.

10 So -- but I do want to say, whether it's good
11 folks or time, we have a connection being
12 Commissioners, and while we are all temporary in
13 nature, it is quite meaningful our relationship
14 during the time that we've had together.

15 You, Commissioner Polmann, are one of a kind.
16 I think we can all clearly say that. You are
17 probably one of the most caring regulators I know.
18 You care about the job. You care about the people
19 of Florida, and your ability to learn and grow as
20 well, which we've seen over the past four years.

21 Your intellect, by far, is incomparable. You
22 have the ability to confound even the smartest of
23 experts in the room with your questions and
24 profound statements. We are all in awe of you.

25 And I do think you have been such a public servant

1 at heart. You have dedicated your life to, whether
2 it's state or local government, to the public
3 service, and also your career in doing the right
4 thing.

5 One thing that I am going to miss about you is
6 your ability to make all of us laugh in even most
7 the most stressful situations. You have this great
8 wit about you. I will also miss your inquisitive
9 and curious nature and your compassionate and
10 supportive spirit.

11 This, as you know, is just good-bye for now.
12 I know wherever you are, whatever you are doing on
13 the next path, that you will be happy, you will be
14 working hard, and I am sure we will be seeing you.

15 I want to wish you the best of luck and thank
16 your family for all of the support that they've
17 shown you over the past four years. You have
18 really been a dedicated Public Service
19 Commissioner.

20 And with that, I would like to present you
21 virtually, which the Chairman is going to show you,
22 just the first award, which is a plaque recognizing
23 your service to the State of Florida during these
24 past four years, and would welcome the other
25 Commissioners to chime in.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause from the audience.)

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Doc and
4 Commissioner Brown.

5 Much like the check, the plaque is in the mail
6 to you as well now.

7 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Excellent.

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: At this time, I will ask
9 Commissioner Fay, if he would, to follow up with
10 another presentation.

11 COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 And, Commissioner Polmann, you are absolutely
13 a friend before a commissioner or regulator. Loved
14 having you here, and I am going to miss all our
15 long conversations about nothing utility related.
16 Your commitment to your family, your kids, I know
17 you -- as a Seminole, I still have to appreciate
18 your Gator sibling -- your Gator daughter, and
19 recognize that she's going on to med school, and
20 you have been a big part of your children and your
21 wife's lives. So I think as a person, sometimes
22 that can be overlooked. We spend so much time with
23 our heads in the book trying to understand the
24 complex issues that come in front of us. And so I
25 just appreciate you being there, and being a

1 friend, especially in times of need for all of us.
2 So we will miss you.

3 I will miss you next to the parking spot next
4 door to me, seeing you as we roll up for meetings,
5 and as you leave to head back home. And I will
6 also miss your cave. I am not sure really where,
7 you know, you have been working from in that area,
8 but, you know, it seems like you have got a setup
9 that we should all be jealous of, so hopefully you
10 could provide some guidance down the road as to how
11 we can have eight documents open at once to deal
12 with the issues that are in front of us.

13 Commissioner Polmann, we wanted to, in
14 addition to the plaque Chairman Clark has presented
15 to you, present you with -- you can see over my, I
16 think it's left -- I think I am turned around on
17 the computer screen, but it's -- yeah, there it is
18 over there -- a box that has a plaque on the front
19 of it that thanks you for your service and a State
20 of the Florida flag, which has been flown over the
21 old capital here in Tallahassee. And I think it
22 just resembles your commitment to the state, to
23 public service and everything that you have done,
24 and so we wanted to go above and beyond a little
25 bit what had normally been done out there just to

1 show you our appreciation.

2 So with that, my friend and colleague, we
3 thank you for everything.

4 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Fay.

5 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you very much.

6 That's an amazing gift. I really appreciate that.

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Commissioner Graham.

8 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Doc, you have definitely been an experience.
10 I truly enjoyed having you with us at the
11 Commission here for four years. It's interesting
12 to me that, you know, you will get these special
13 bonds back behind the dais. I know that both Julie
14 and Lisa had the lawyer bond, and now Julie and
15 Andrew have that bond. I know both Ron Brisé and
16 Jimmy Patronis had the former legislator bond. You
17 and I have had that engineering bond.

18 It's amazing to me, sometimes I sit back and I
19 think about so many times that you and I were on
20 one side of an issue and everybody else on the
21 other side of the issue, and I think it's because
22 we saw the issue a little bit different than
23 everybody else. Not that we are right or wrong --
24 well, actually, we are right, but we just talk a
25 little differently than everybody else. But I will

1 definitely, definitely miss that.

2 You -- you took the -- you took the reigns
3 when it came to NARUC with the Water Committee.
4 When I moved from that committee, and I have heard
5 nothing but great things about you involved in that
6 committee, you brought -- you brought the whole --
7 you brought the entire committee to a different
8 level, and your knowledge of water and wastewater
9 systems is just second to none. And I don't know
10 what's next for you in the future, but I am
11 definitely going to miss having you around.

12 And of course, unlike my last two colleagues,
13 the only gift I have to give to you is my
14 friendship, and hopefully that's enough. And good
15 luck in the future, my friend.

16 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you, Commissioner
17 Graham.

18 A friendship goes along way, so that's one of
19 the best gifts that anyone could ask for. Thank
20 you.

21 And, of course, you are right about us being
22 right. No question there. I will accept that with
23 no argument.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Commissioner Polmann, I will
25 conclude with a hearty thank you on behalf of the

1 State of Florida, on behalf of the Florida Public
2 Service Commission.

3 I would like to also extend a very special
4 thank you to your family, to Lisa, to Jack and to
5 Michaela for allowing you to serve with us, and for
6 allowing you to take time out to be here and work
7 on these important issues for the state of Florida.
8 You are a great friend. You will be dearly missed.
9 I wish you the absolute best in your future
10 endeavors.

11 We will give you the final rebuttal remarks if
12 you would like a couple, Commissioner Polmann.

13 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman, and thank you, Commissioners. I have so
15 much to say in so little time, or so much time and
16 so little to say.

17 I truly appreciate your reference for
18 Commissioner Brown trying to keep me in line.
19 That's an enviable task and a hopeless endeavor.
20 It reminds me of a former job where, in a board
21 meeting, those of us on senior staff were seated at
22 the same table, and the one who sat next to me
23 actually had that assignment from our executive
24 director, was try to keep me in my seat so that I
25 wouldn't storm the podium to go up and talk to the

1 board, which I occasionally did, which really
2 frustrated everyone. And her job was to actually
3 hold on to my sport coat and to try to keep me from
4 standing up. So that reference just makes me smile
5 in my heart of hearts.

6 And, Commissioner Brown, you have -- you have
7 truly done a great job. And to all the chairs, not
8 to leave Commissioner Fay out of this, but we have
9 a separate and very special relationship. I
10 appreciate your acknowledgment. Very interesting,
11 you have the newest car, and I have the oldest car,
12 but they are just the same, and in many other ways,
13 we have many commonalities as well.

14 Let me start -- let me add where I started
15 here in my comments, and that is to express my
16 gratitude to those who have allowed me to serve,
17 and that is the Public Service Commission
18 Nominating Council, who I have become intimately
19 familiar with, unfortunately, in having been with
20 them four times. And to our former Governor, Rick
21 Scott, who provided me this opportunity, I am truly
22 grateful for this opportunity to serve.

23 And I want to recognize and truly appreciate
24 all of -- all of my colleagues, those of you
25 sitting here and the former Commissioners that I

1 served with. Great deep respect for all of you,
2 and admiration for the fact that we have been truly
3 a collegial body. It's so wonderful how we have
4 been able to work together and conduct ourselves in
5 true service to the public, and in a business-like
6 fashion, but in a way that I think epitomizes the
7 way a public body should conduct theirselves. I
8 will always be able to look back at this time and
9 hold us -- this body up as an example of how to
10 conduct business in the public space.

11 I can't possibly go through and identify the
12 staff individually, so let me just thank all of our
13 staff. And speaking to the staff, thank you for
14 your dedication. It was good to be able to do this
15 here on the day that we are we recognize in-service
16 awards, but I want to thank all the staff for your
17 dedication to public service and to this
18 commission. You work so hard preparing us for all
19 of our meetings, and I want to thank you as an
20 individual for allowing me to ask the same question
21 on the subject matter over and over again, and I
22 say, thank you. I understand that. And the next
23 time this subject comes up on AFUDC, or whatever
24 the case may be, I will come back and I will ask
25 you the same question, and thank you for your

1 patience to explain it to me again, because I
2 understand it right now and then six months from
3 now, y'all explain it again so very well that I
4 will understand it until the next time that I don't
5 understand it. So thank you again and again and
6 again.

7 Let me -- let me close and -- I simply knew I
8 wasn't going to be able to get through this, but I
9 can't even start talking about it without --
10 without tiering up, so I apologize. And of course
11 Commissioner Brown is going to be right here with
12 me, so let me see if I can get the rest of the
13 Commissioners to -- to do this as well. So please
14 forgive me.

15 I simply have had the privilege and the
16 pleasure to sit in the big chair and have an
17 opinion and have the vote, but that chair is
18 supported and held steady by the true people who I
19 have had the opportunity to share what we call Team
20 Polmann. And rather than carry on here, I will
21 simply say I could not do this job without them.
22 And, Commissioners, I will just leave it there.

23 Those of you that know me personally know that
24 I am -- I am really an incredibly emotional person,
25 so I thank you to Ana and Cristina, and, Mr.

1 Chairman, I will -- I will just close there. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
4 Polmann.

5 Any other comments from any Commissioner
6 before we move on?

7 Thank you so much. Fine words from everyone,
8 all from the heart. Very heartfelt. Thank you,
9 sir.

10 All right. Let's get into our meeting this
11 morning. I will call our meeting to order.

12 Items No. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 15 are
13 on the move staff. Item 2, 3, 4, 8, 10 and 12 have
14 been moved to the end for further discussion.

15 Is there any of the items on move staff that
16 any Commissioner would like taken off?

17 Seeing none, I will entertain a motion on the
18 move staff item.

19 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I would
20 move approval of all of those enumerated items on
21 the move staff list.

22 COMMISSIONER FAY: I will second.

23 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I have a motion and a second.

24 Is there any discussion?

25 On the motion, all in favor say aye.

1 (Chorus of ayes.)

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN CLARK: And the motion carries.

5 (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2020.



DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH31926
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024