

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Nashville, Tennessee

In re: *Application of SVE Connect, LLC for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority*

Docket No. 18-00020

AFFIDAVIT OF T. MICHAEL PARTIN

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF MARION

I, T. Michael Partin, state as follows:

A. Identification of Affiant and Application Fee

1. Affiant is an Officer.

My name is T. Michael Partin and I am the president and chief executive officer of SVE Connect, LLC (hereinafter referred to in this Application as the “Applicant”). Consistent with Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c), I am an officer authorized make to this affidavit on behalf of the Applicant.

2. Application Fee

Application fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) is submitted with this Application as required under Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(b)(1)(A) and based on the population of the service area being less than fifty thousand (50,000), as reflected in the most recent decennial census.

B. Required Information and Affirmations

1. Compliance with Applicable Laws

a. The Applicant agrees to comply with the requirements of Tennessee Competitive Cable and Video Services Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 7-59-301, et seq. (the “Act”), expressly including the applicable nondiscrimination and service deployment requirements of § 7-59-311, and further, that the applicant

acknowledges the provisions of § 7-59-312 relative to enforcement of nondiscrimination and deployment requirements.

b. The Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations to the extent that the state laws and regulations are not in conflict with or superseded by the Act, or other applicable law. The Applicant further agrees to timely file with the FCC all forms required by the FCC in advance of offering cable or video services for purchase and/or providing broadband Internet service.

2. Description of Service Area

After issuance of a state-issued certificate of franchise authority, the Applicant will provide cable or video services for purchase and/or provide broadband Internet service in the areas identified and described in Exhibit A.

3. Intent to Serve

The Applicant intends to begin to offer cable or video services for purchase and/or provide broadband Internet service, as described in Subsection 2, within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the issuance of a state-issued Certificate of Franchise Authority.

4. Indemnification

The Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the state, municipality, county and any employee or representative of the state, municipality or county, as well as any political subdivision of the state and any employee or representative of the political subdivision (individually and collectively referred to in Section 7-59-318 as the “indemnitee”) to the extent

required under Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-318 and subject to the rights and limitations established therein.

5. Contact Information & Authorized Representatives

- a. The address and telephone number of the Applicant's principal place of business are as follows:

512 S Cedar Ave
South Pittsburg, Tennessee 37380
423-837-8605

- b. The following persons are the Applicant's principal executive officers:

Mike Jordan, Chairman
Roger Powell, Vice Chairman
T. Michael Partin, President and CEO
Judy Fults, Secretary and Treasurer

- c. The following persons are authorized to represent the Applicant before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission:

T. Michael Partin, President and CEO
Robert C. Guth , Bass, Berry and Sims PLC
Erica Vick , Bass, Berry and Sims PLC

6. Qualifications

By review of qualifications, the Applicant has the managerial, financial and technical qualifications to provide cable or video services and/or broadband Internet service.

7. Customer Service

- a. Customer Complaints: Whenever customer complaints arise they will be handled in a professional and expedient manner. First line customer service representatives will record the complaint, taking down a complete listing of specific issues and detailed information. If the customer service representative

cannot resolve the issue it will be referred to a supervisor. Each customer's complaint will be handled within forty-eight (48) hours, and an employee or agent of the Applicant will respond back to the customer within that period of time.

b. Billing Adjustments: Billing errors will be detailed out and then appropriate adjustments will be written up. These adjustments will be reviewed by a supervisor and then made to the customer's account.

c. Contact Information: Customers who have questions or complaints regarding their service may contact the Applicant at 423-837-8605 or toll free at 1-888-421-7832. Communication with government officials regarding customer complaints should be referred to either Beth Duggar at dbuggar@svalleyec.com and 423-837-5033 or to Mike Birdwell at mbirdwell@svalleyec.com and 423-837-5076.

8. Required Notices

a. The Applicant has provided notice and a copy of this Application to each local government that would be affected by the state-issued certificate of franchise authority at the addresses set forth in the list attached as Exhibit B.

b. The Applicant will give notice to other entities with facilities in the rights-of-way, consistent with any nondiscriminatory and generally applicable local ordinance or resolution requiring such notice prior to performing any installation in the right-of-way.

c. The Applicant agrees to provide notice to an affected local governing authority ten (10) days prior to providing service in that jurisdiction.

9. Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan

In accordance with Section 7-59-313, the Applicant agrees to comply with its Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan attached as Exhibit C.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF Marion

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of February, 2018.



Carolyn Joan Davis
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 06/08/2021

EXHIBIT A

Application of SVE Connect for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority

Service Areas

City of Jasper, Tennessee
City of Kimball, Tennessee
City of New Hope, Tennessee
City of Orme, Tennessee
City of Powells Crossroads, Tennessee
City of South Pittsburg, Tennessee
City of Whitwell, Tennessee
Portions of Unincorporated Marion County, Tennessee
Portions of Unincorporated Franklin County, Tennessee

The areas the Applicant will serve under the state-issued certificate of franchise authority are highlighted in teal green in the map below.



EXHIBIT B

Application of SVE Connect for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority

Local Governments Provided Notice

Marion County, Tennessee

David Jackson, County Mayor
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 105
Jasper, TN 37347

Franklin County, Tennessee

Richard Stewart, County Mayor
855 Dinah Shore Blvd Suite #3
Winchester, TN 37398

Jasper, Tennessee

Paul Wayne Evans, Mayor
4460 Main Street
Jasper, TN 37347

Kimball, Tennessee

Rex Pesnell, Mayor
675 Main Street
Kimball, Tennessee 37347

New Hope, Tennessee

Mark Myers, Mayor
PO Box 168
South Pittsburg, TN 37380

Orme, Tennessee

Jerry Godsby, Mayor
860 Orme Road
South Pittsburg, TN 37380

Powells Crossroads, Tennessee

Barry Elsea, Mayor
140 Alvin York Highway
Whitwell, TN 37397

South Pittsburg, Tennessee

Virgil F. Holder, Mayor
204 W. 3rd Street
South Pittsburg, TN 37380

Whitwell, Tennessee

Linda Hooper, Mayor
13671 Highway 28
Whitwell, TN 37397

EXHIBIT C

Application of SVE Connect for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority

Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan

Pursuant to Section 7-59-313 of the Tennessee Competitive Cable and Video Services Act, this Minority-Owned Business Participation Plan (the “Plan”) sets forth the plan of SVE Connect, LLC (“Provider”) to actively solicit bids from, and let contracts to, minority-owned businesses when establishing, providing, or expanding cable or video services and/or broadband Internet service and related support facilities.

- 1) **Minority-Owned Business.** “Minority-owned business” means a business that is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the assets or outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual who personally manages and controls the daily operations of the business and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of:
 - a. Past practices of discrimination based on race, religion, ethnic background or sex, including, but not limited to, women;
 - b. A disability as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-26-102, including, but not limited to, disabled veterans; or
 - c. Past practices of racial discrimination against African-Americans.
- 2) **Supplier Diversity Policy Statement.** It is the policy of the Provider to promote the purchase of goods and services from minority-owned businesses. Maximum practicable opportunity shall be given to minority-owned businesses to participate as suppliers of material and services to the Provider. The Provider also encourages subcontracting opportunities from minority-owned businesses.
- 3) **Promotion of Opportunities for Minority-Owned Businesses.** The Provider’s management, procurement, and human resources personnel work to identify goods and services that may be supplied by minority-owned businesses. When possible, the Provider seeks proposals, and makes purchases, from qualified minority-owned businesses. The Provider also seeks to foster relationships within minority-owned business communities.
- 4) **Technical Assistance to Minority-Owned Businesses.** The Provider provides information for minority-owned businesses upon request.
- 5) **Statement of Intent.** Under the Plan, the Provider shall (i) endeavor to maximize participation of minority-owned businesses and (ii) aim to achieve a level of minority-owned business participation representative of the population of the demographics of the state of Tennessee.

By January 31 of each year, the Provider will prepare and submit an annual report to the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission concerning the Plan and the Provider's compliance with the Plan