

Broadband Advisory Committee meeting
7/11/2019

Attendees:

Robert Hiss (County Administrator), Traci Blido (County Econ Dev. Dir.), George Condyles (The Atlantic Group - Consultant), Anthony Smith (Blue Ridge Towers), Robert Smith (Blue Ridge Towers), Sean Cai (Blue Ridge Towers), Warner Hall (Blue Ridge Towers), Andy Dooley (BOS), Ed Hoisington (BCPS), Greg Modzelewski (Broadband Advisory Committee), Darrell Campbell (Broadband Advisory Committee), Lee Walker (Broadband Advisory Committee), Kevin Mele (Broadband Advisory Committee), and William Guzek (Broadband Advisory Committee).

Allen opened the meeting and requested at the end of the meeting, that advisory members and staff remain for a short meeting.

Allen welcomed 5 citizens from Beachwood subdivision that joined us. Their reason for joining us, was that while Comcast was providing service around them Comcast is not providing them with service. They are requesting help from the committee in getting service. Traci said she would look into this. Sean indicated that the Blue Ridge Towers tower at Westlake may be able to service them when it is operational.

No meeting has been held with SCS yet due to scheduling issues on SCS ends.

Allen then turned the meeting over to George. George thanked Traci for her work on making the ground breaking a success. Traci shared that Anthony and his staff played a major role in the success as well.

George indicated that he plans to visit River Street Networks headquarters and requested that some of the members join him. Their timeframe to work in Bedford is not until 2023. It is the goal the current project to be done long before that.

Kevin Mele indicated Verizon is laying fiber on 122 just north of the bridge and believes it will be used for broadband. George indicated he would have John Barret look into this and get back to the committee on his findings.

Allen expressed concern that the county and Seiontec Systems, 700 12th St, Lynchburg, VA 24504, (434) 509-4836, which has line of site broad service on No Business Mtn (located in Big Island) have not worked together yet to insure there are no technical conflicts between their broadband service and what the county will be providing.

A week remains on the 30-day challenge period as it relates to tower proposed by the landfill, to date no challenge has been received.

Andy raised on Edgar's behalf wanting more information on going up on the New London water tower. Sean indicated he would call Edgar. Anthony indicated he would have more on this at the next meeting. The plan remains to provide service from the water tower and most likely how this will be worked out with the BRWA is by having the project putting up a new ring on the tower.

Please see Blue Ridge Towers status report, which is posted. There was discussion on the pole attachment application with AEP. Originally when the contract with Blue Ridge in February the county was to address this, it was later decided in June Blue Ridge would do this and Warren was assigned the task. The agreement is needed to provide fiber to several sites. This could have an impact on the project as this could turn into an effort which could take some time. Traci as of the

writing of the minutes has already been in contract with her contract at AEP to aid in moving this effort up on AEP's priority list.

Blue Ridge provided the members with a copy of their Milestone Project Tracker, which is posted also. Legend – white is construction/green is development.

A question was raised what does 95% mean. It does not mean 95% service to the all of the county, but means 95% to the unserved/underserved parts of the county.

George provide the members with a Bedford County Design Map, which is posted also. Note the circles are a 4 mile radius and this is not a propagation map. Please see page 46 of George's design for that.

George provide some pictures of what relay poles may look like. The cost of construction and material (not including the pole) using is solar is estimated to be \$25,000. No money has been allocated to this effort.

Next meeting will be held August 8 at 10 a.m., again in Main Floor Training Room. Please note for the remember of this year the meetings will be held in the Main Floor Training Room.

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