

Broadband Advisory Committee Minutes
10/10/2019

Attendees:

Robert Hiss (County Administrator), Allen Boaz (Broadband Advisory Committee Chairman), Gregg Zody (Director of Community Development), Jordan Mitchell (Community Development Planner), Anthony Smith (Blue Ridge Towers), Sean Cai (Blue Ridge Towers), Warner Hall (Brisconet), Clare Novak (Blue Ridge Towers), Andy Dooley (BoS), Ed Hoisington (BCPS), Greg Modzelewski (Broadband Advisory Committee), and Edward Jones (Blue Ridge Towers) and George Condyles, The Atlantic Group/county consultant.

Allen called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and turned the meeting over to George Condyles for his status report. George will attend a meeting on 10/11 at 10:30 a.m. in the County Administration Conference Room to discuss the financial reimbursement process and documentation needs for the Tobacco Commission and VATI grants. Two approaches were discussed: 1) Breakout the cost by tower; 2) Breakout the cost by activity on all the towers. It was agreed based on the requirements of the grants it was best to breakout the cost by tower.

George and Blue Ridge Towers (BRT) staff have been working with Greg Eaton, Director of The Claytor Nature Center to determine Internet needs on the site and to build them a system that will meet their needs. A mini pop maybe needed to accomplish this.

George turned the meeting over to Anthony for BRT status report. Three sites are having setback issues (Big Island, Boonsboro and Moneta). Moneta is of the most concern since the pole is almost against the shed and there is no place to move it to on the property owned by the fire department. While a number of possible fixes for each site were discussed, none are quick fixes. Moneta may require seeing if there is another site available and across the street was mentioned as a possibility.

At Big Island Elementary, the library's waterline was cut (which did not show up on any utility maps or ground searches). The line is allocated in the tower compound area and needs to be moved. Robert Hiss approved \$7,500 to move the water line. A phone line (which did not show up on any utility maps or ground searches) was cut and has been repaired. Note the phone line was less than a foot underground.

Montvale tower fiber has been installed.

The cost to install power at the two Big Island sites, is felt to be very unreasonable. Robert will contact Bedford Town as their power company would provide power to discuss the cost.

The Tower Management Agreement is still an open issue. Robert recommended to BRT that they resubmit what they had prepared as part of the RFP for the tower build/installation. BRT agreed to do this.

The outstanding issues with the BRWA have been resolved.

Issues with SCS are still outstanding. Robert has written a letter to SCS on how the county wants to proceed and has not yet heard back. The hope is that this can be resolved without the county taking legal action. SCS has installed backhaul equipment at the 1-81 foot array on the Montvale tower, which was never agreed to in any contract with them.

SCS has told the county they have 100 customers on the Montvale tower. Depending on the outcome, all or some of these people will be affected by the outcome of what happens with SCS. Those affected may elect to purchase new service from Briscnet.

2,400 people have contacted Briscnet about getting Internet service, of which about 80% are Bedford residents.

Next meeting will be held November 14 at 10 a.m., again in the Main Floor Training Room in the Bedford County Administration building.

<https://www.bedfordcountyva.gov/boards-commissions/broadband-authority>

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