



Franklin County

A Natural Setting for Opportunity

AGENDA

FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ROOM

- 12:30 **Call to Order, Chairman Mitchell**
- 12:31 **Approval of Minutes**
- February 2, 2021 and February 23, 2021 Meetings
- 12:40 **Current Project Updates - Steven Sandy, Assistant County Administrator**
- Blue Ridge Towers – Anthony Smith
 - Briscnet – John Manning
- 1:05 **Items for Authority Discussion/Action- Steven Sandy, Assistant County Administrator**
1. Approval of PPEA contract amendment – Project Schedule
 2. Virginia Tobacco Commission Grant - Resolution of Support and MOU with Shentel
 3. Burnt Chimney Water Tank Lease
- 1:10 **Comments by Authority Members**
- 1:20 **Adjourn**

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting to Immediately Follow

Memorandum

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Broadband Authority

CC: Christopher Whitlow, County Administrator

From: Steven M. Sandy, Assistant County Administrator

RE: March 16th Broadband Authority Topics

Fixed Wireless Project Updates

Representatives of Blue Ridge Towers and Briscnet will be present to provide project updates to the Broadband Authority. The team will present an amended project schedule for discussion and consideration. Information on management change and installation timeline concerning Briscnet has been attached.

Items for Discussion/Action

Project Schedule Changes – The PPEA agreement contains an approved schedule for project milestones for the fixed wireless project. This schedule was modified and approved by the Authority in December 2020. Blue Ridge Towers and Briscnet have proposed to amend the schedule for final completion of the project and will need Authority approval. See attached schedules. The current deadline for completion of this project under the VATI grant program is October 15, 2021.

Possible Actions:

(APPROVE) I move to APPROVE the requested project schedule amendments dated March 11, 2021 as part of the County's PPEA agreement with Blue Ridge Towers and Briscnet.

Or

(DENY) I move to DENY the requested project schedule amendments dated March 11, 2021

Or

(DELAY ACTION) I move to delay action until additional information is submitted to the Authority.

Tobacco Commission Grant – County staff worked with Shentel to develop an application for funding through the VA Tobacco Commission’s FY 2021 Southern VA grant program. This grant was discussed at your meeting on February 23, 2021 and the Authority authorized staff to move forward on an application for fiber extension. The application is to extend fiber from Shentel’s existing network to 32 existing residents (and 18 vacant lots) along Grimes Creek Lane and Mountain Cove Road in the Hardy area (Gills Creek District). This application requests \$42,679 in grant funding. The required local match will be provided by Shentel with no County funding. The application requires a resolution of support from the County for this project. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Shentel and the Broadband Authority has been drafted to outline the requirements for this project. If grant funding is approved, an additional amendment to the Authority’s existing PPEA contract with Shentel would need to be approved. Also, the Authority would have to enter into a grant agreement with the VA Tobacco Commission. See attached copy of resolution and MOU.

Possible Actions:

(APPROVE) I move to APPROVE the attached resolution of support for the submittal of the FY 2021 VA Tobacco Commission grant and Memorandum of Understanding with Shentel as the private partner to provide broadband services to 32 existing residents (and 18 vacant lots) along Grimes Creek Lane and Mountain Cove Road in the Hardy area (Gills Creek District) and authorize the Chairman and County Attorney to sign the necessary documents.

Or

(DENY) I move to DENY the requested resolution of support for the submittal of the FY 2021 VA Tobacco Commission grant and Memorandum of Understanding with Shentel

Or

(DELAY ACTION) I move to delay action until additional information is submitted to the Authority.

Burnt Chimney Water Tank Lease – County staff has been working with the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) and Briscnet to secure a lease to attach broadband equipment to the existing water tank in Burnt Chimney. A draft lease has been developed between WVWA, Briscnet and Franklin County. Below are some of the key terms of the agreement.

- WVWA owns water tank, County owns land
- County does not charge WVWA rent for ground lease however, approved ground lease between County and WVWA splits any revenues 50/50
- WVWA has proposed lease for attachment of equipment at 50% of usual rate based on agreement with County
- Proposed lease requires FCBA to pay rent for attachment of Briscnet equipment for first five years. Briscnet pays the FCBA a monthly rent per PPEA contract however, this will not cover all rent costs. Per the lease, FCBA will provide the supplemental funds totaling approximately \$13,000 (avg. \$2600/yr.) for rent through the County’s Broadband capital account for the first five years of the agreement. The VATI grant has accounted for these funds as part of the required local match. If the PPEA contract between Briscnet and FCBA ends during this five-year period, Briscnet will assume all rental costs.
- In year 6, Briscnet will assume all future rental/lease costs associated with the attachment of their equipment to the water tank.

Possible Actions:

(APPROVE) I move to APPROVE the lease agreement between the Franklin County Broadband Authority, Western VA Water Authority and Briscnet to allow broadband equipment to be installed on the Burnt Chimney Water Tank and authorize the Chairman and County Attorney to sign the necessary documents.

Or

(DENY) I move to DENY the lease agreement between the Franklin County Broadband Authority, Western VA Water Authority and Briscnet to allow broadband equipment to be installed on the Burnt Chimney Water Tank.

Or

(DELAY ACTION) I move to delay action until additional information is submitted to the Authority.



February 19, 2021

Mr. Steve Sandy
Assistant County Administrator
Franklin County, VA

Dear Steve,

Please know that Radius Broadband Holdings, LLC (RBH), as managed by Radius Capital Partners, is an investor and controlling member of Blue Ridge Internet Service Company, LLC, doing business as BriscNet in the state of Virginia. RBH is the provider of all required equity capital to fund the day-to-day operation of BriscNet as well as to purchase the telecommunication equipment required for the Franklin County project. RBH is a Delaware limited liability company. RBH does not have any interest in or investment in Blue Ridge Towers. Blue Ridge Towers and BriscNet have one common shareholder who is Anthony Smith, President and owner of Blue Ridge Towers.

BriscNet has engaged Core Telecom, a Cambium re-seller and distributor, to provide the antennas, radios and base stations for the Franklin County Network as well as to project manage the installation of the Cambium equipment at each tower site. We have also engaged Ascendtek/Virginia Towers to install the antennas/radios at the tower top location(s). Civil or ground work will be performed by either Acendtek/Virginia Towers or Kevin Everhart/SL Universal Contractors.

Should you have any further concerns or questions, please contact me directly. Under separate cover, I will provide a summary/timeline for internet service activation.

My Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Manning". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John F. Manning
Radius Capital Partners
jmanning@radiuscapitalpartners.com
(C) 919-539-1225



February 19, 2021

Mr. Steve Sandy
Assistant County Administrator
Franklin County, VA

Dear Steve,

Standard Timeline Implementation:

Week 1: Site installation of radios/antennas by tower crews.

Week 2: Network testing of fiber backhaul and antenna propagation coverage. Assumes fiber is landed to site and operating.

Week 3: Customer solicitation to schedule site survey to determine site connectivity.

Week 4: Schedule customer installation of subscriber antenna equipment and indoor router.

My Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John F. Manning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Manning" clearly legible.

John F. Manning
Radius Capital Partners
jmanning@radiuscapitalpartners.com
(C) 919-539-1225

Franklin County/Blue Ridge Towers Phase 1 Broadband Milestone Project Tracker - Revised 12/15/2020

Site Name	Site Address	Tower Type	Landlord	MS11 Fiber Deposit	MS12 Fiber Complete	MS13 Microwave Deposit	MS14 Microwave Complete	MS15 Router order	MS16 Router complete	MS 17 CD complete	MS18 Building Permit Submittal	MS19 Tower Order	MS20 Construction Start	MS21 Foundation Complete	MS22 Tower Delivery	MS23 Tower Stack	MS23E Electrical Complete	MS24 Site Complete
Industrial park	21745 Virgil H Goode, Rocky Mount, VA 24151	175' monopole	Franklin County	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	6/25/2019	7/5/2029	7/31/2019	8/1/2019	9/1/2019	9/15/2019	10/1/2019	12/15/2019	2/1/2020
Westlake	71 Parkcrest Drive, Hardy, Va 24121	175' Monopine	Blue Ridge Towers	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/10/2020	1/15/2021	1/15/2021	2/1/2021	2/13/2020	2/10/2021	2/15/2021	3/15/2021	4/1/2021
Snow Creek	6200 Snow Creek Road, penhook, VA 24137	195' Monopole	Blue Ridge Towers/Daniel Smith	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/17/2020	10/21/2020	10/5/2020	1/10/2021	1/15/2021	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	2/24/2021	3/15/2021
Callaway	8451 Calloway Road Rd. Calloway, Va 24067	195' Monopole	Franklin County School Board	12/20/2021	3/1/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/17/2020	10/21/2020	12/15/2020	1/10/2021	1/15/2021	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	2/24/2021	3/15/2021
Henry Volunteer VFD	5241 Henry Road, Henry, VA 24102	195' Monopole	Franklin County/Henry VFD	NA	NA	11/1/2020	2/10/2021	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/17/2020	10/21/2020	12/15/2020	1/10/2021	1/15/2021	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	2/24/2021	3/15/2021
Fork Mtn Fire Station	2797 Virgil H Goode Hwy, Rocky Mt, VA 24151	195' Monopole	Franklin County/Fork Mtn VFD	NA	NA	11/1/2020	2/10/2021	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/19/2020	10/21/2020	12/15/2020	1/7/2021	1/14/2021	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	2/24/2021	3/15/2021
Glade Hill Elementary School	8081 Old franklin Turnpike, Glade Hill, VA 24092	80' Monopole	Franklin County School Board	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/17/2020	10/21/2020	12/15/2020	1/5/2021	1/10/2021	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	2/24/2021	3/15/2021
Sontag	2455 Sontag Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151	150' Monopole	Franklin County	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/17/2020	10/21/2020	10/5/2020	1/10/2021	1/15/2021	1/15/2021	1/22/2021	2/24/2021	3/15/2021
Grassy Hill Tower	815 Summit Drive, Rocky Mount, VA 24151	Existing 195' SST	Franklin County	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/15/2020	10/21/2020	N/A	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/1/2021
Scruggs Tower	2075 Blue Water Drive, Moneta, VA 24121	Existing 195' SST	Franklin County	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/15/2020	10/21/2020	N/A	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/1/2021
Tom's Knob Tower	1198 Tom's Knob Road, Rocky Mount, Va 24151	Existing 195' SST	Franklin County	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/15/2020	10/21/2020	N/A	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/15/2021
Burnt Chimney Water Tank	50 Burnt Chimney Road, Wirtz, VA 24184	Existing 85' watertank	Western Virginia Water Authority	12/20/2021	2/15/2021	NA	NA	11/1/2020	12/10/2020	10/15/2020	10/21/2020	N/A	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/10/2021

Franklin County/Blue Ridge Towers Phase 1 Broadband Milestone Project Tracker - **MARCH 11, 2021**

Site Name	Site Address	MS12 Fiber Complete	MS13 Microwave Deposit	MS14 Microwave Complete	MS15 Router order	MS16 Router complete	MS20 Construct ion Start	MS21 Foundation Complete	MS22 Tower Delivery	MS23 Tower Stack	MS23E Electrical Complete	MS24 Site Complete
Industrial park	21745 Virgil H Goode, Rocky Mount, VA 24151	3/10/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	8/1/2019	9/1/2019	9/15/2019	10/1/2019	12/15/2019	6/1/2021
Westlake	71 Parkcrest Drive. Hardy, Va 24121	4/15/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	7/15/2021	8/15/2020	9/1/2020	9/1/2020	8/15/2021	9/15/2021
Snow Creek	6200 Snow Creek Road, penhook, VA 24137	5/1/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	1/10/2021	2/3/2021	2/10/2021	2/16/2021	3/22/2021	7/1/2021
Calloway	8451 Calloway Road Rd. Calloway, Va 24067	4/1/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	4/10/2021	4/19/2021	4/15/2021	4/22/2021	5/10/2021	6/15/2021
Henry Volunteer VFD	5241 Henry Road, Henry, VA 24102	NA	3/1/2021	3/25/2021	5/1/2021	TBD	3/10/2021	3/25/2021	4/10/2021	4/12/2021	4/25/2021	6/15/2021
Fork Mtn Fire Station	2797 Virgil H Goode Hwy, Rocky Mt, VA 24151	NA	3/1/2021	3/25/2021	5/1/2021	TBD	3/20/2021	4/10/2021	4/25/2021	4/27/2021	5/10/2021	6/20/2021
Glade Hill Elementary School	8081 Old franklin Turnpike, Glade Hill, VA 24092	4/15/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	5/5/2021	5/21/2021	5/25/2021	5/28/2021	6/15/2021	7/15/2021
Sontag	2455 Sontag Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151	3/1/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	3/6/2021	3/15/2021	3/17/2021	3/17/2021	4/10/2021	6/15/2021
Grassy Hill Tower	815 Summit Drive, Rocky Mount, VA 24151	3/15/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/20/2021	5/1/2021
Scruggs Tower	2075 Blue Water Drive, Moneta, VA 24121	2/28/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/20/2021	4/1/2021
Tom's Knob Tower	1198 Tom's Knob Road,. Rocky Mount, Va 24151	4/15/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/10/2021	7/1/2021
Burnt Chimney Water Tank	50 Burnt Chimney Road, Wirtz, VA 24184	3/1/2021	NA	NA	5/1/2021	TBD	1/5/2021	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/20/2021	5/15/2021

**Resolution Supporting Application
to the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization
Commission for Broadband under the
FY2021 Southern Virginia Program Funding**

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Broadband Authority (FCBA) was established in 2017 to facilitate the provision of affordable high-speed data, internet, and telecommunications services for the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) has created the FY 2021 Southern Virginia Program to provide funding to localities to construct “last mile” broadband communications infrastructure in unserved areas of the TRRC southern region of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the FCBA has identified one (1) project that has been proposed and supported by residents of the area; and

WHEREAS, the FCBA has approved a Memorandum of Understanding to partner with Shentel to create a network expansion in Franklin County to provide internet service to pass by approximately 32 homes and 18 vacant lots in the Mountain Cove Drive area of Hardy; and

WHEREAS, the FCBA has estimated the total costs of this project to be \$85,359; and

WHEREAS, Shentel has agreed to fund 50% of the project costs totaling \$42,680 of the required improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the FCBA approves and supports the application to the TRRC network expansion to Mountain Cove Drive in Hardy for funding in the amount of \$42,679.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator (or designee) and County Attorney are granted the necessary authority to sign all necessary documents related to this application to the TRRC.

VOTE INFO

Madeline Sefcik, Clerk
Franklin County Board of Supervisors

Date

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN FRANKLIN COUNTY
BROADBAND AUTHORITY AND
SHENTEL FOR APPLYING FOR VIRGINIA
TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION
COMMISSION BROADBAND FUNDING FOR
PROVIDING BROADBAND SERVICES**

I. PARTIES AND PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 20__ by and between the Franklin County Broadband Authority (FCBA), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the Wireless Service Authorities Act, hereinafter referred to as the "FCBA," and Shenandoah Telecommunications Company, hereinafter referred to as "Shentel," for the purpose of creating a partnership to prepare and submit an application for grant funding through the FY2021 Southern Virginia Program managed by the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) in an effort to expand and improve broadband services to the citizens of Franklin County, Virginia.

The FCBA recognizes that in order to attain and maintain a high-quality level of broadband service to the citizens of Franklin County, a close working relationship with the private internet providers is desirable and will be made possible in large part through state and federal grant funding opportunities.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

The FCBA and Shentel desire to cooperatively work together to prepare and apply for grant funding through the FY2021 Southern Virginia Program managed by the Virginia TRRC to provide fiber broadband service in the County by extending their existing fiber network. The application for funding anticipates coverage to be made available to approximately 47 serviceable units in the County that are currently unserved/underserved. Service is envisioned to be provided through the following infrastructure improvements:

- Mountain Cove Area: Coaxial cable/fiber extension (3,354 feet of aerial and 2,505 feet of underground). Approximately 47 serviceable units passed.

FCBA and Shentel agree to provide the necessary funding to construct the projects above to deliver internet service to the homes/businesses in this area by providing minimum average internet speeds of 50 Mbps/10 Mbps. The total cost of these projects is estimated at \$85,359.

To obtain necessary project funding, the FCBA agrees to complete a grant funding application, with assistance from the FCBA consultant and Shentel through the TRCC FY2021 Southern Virginia Program requesting \$42,679.50 to be allocated to the above project. Shentel agrees to provide the remaining project funding to complete the above projects.

Both parties confirm that a detailed agreement shall be executed if funding is approved to outline all the obligations of the FCBA and Shentel and provide performance guarantees for service delivery and maintenance. If funding is approved from TRRC, both parties confirm and understand that Shentel will be responsible for providing the remaining of the funding necessary to complete the project for which TRRC funding was received. In addition, as part of the funding agreement, Shentel agrees to provide one buffer tube (12 strands) of fiber with each project and a thirty (30) year IRU (Indefeasible Right to Use) agreement for the FCBA subject to no up-front fees. However, a market rate annual maintenance fee may be required.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the day, month, and year indicated:

FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY:

Approved as to Form: FRANKLIN COUNTY
BROADBAND AUTHORITY,
VIRGINIA

By: _____
Michael W.S. Lockaby
County Attorney

By: _____
Leland Mitchell
FCBA Chairman

STATE OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, to wit:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____,
20__, by Leland Mitchell, FCBA Chairman on behalf of the Franklin County Broadband Authority.

Registration #:

My Commission expires:

_____ Notary

Public

FOR SHENTEL:

-
-
-

By: Chris Kyle
Christopher S. Kyle,
Vice President Industry Affairs
and Regulatory

STATE OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN, to wit:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____,
20__, by Christopher S. Kyle, Vice President of Shenandoah Telecommunications Company (Shentel).

Registration #:

My Commission expires:

Notary Public

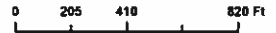
Franklin County 2021 TRRC Grant Potential Fiber Broadband Service Expansion

Mountain Cove



Legend

- Potential Addresses**
- Residential (32)
 - Non Residential (1)
 - ▲ Vacant Lot (18)
 - Other
- Other Features**
- Potential Service Area
 - Tax Parcels
 - Water Features



The data layers provided herein were compiled from various sources within a geographic information system (GIS) for the primary use of Franklin County. The data provided herein are believed to be accurate but are provided for reference purposes only. These GIS data are in no way meant as a replacement for a legal survey, legal description, or standard due diligence. No guarantee, expressed or implied, is made regarding their accuracy, currency, adequacy, usefulness, or reliability. These data are provided "as is" and neither Franklin County nor its employees shall be held responsible for their inappropriate use.

Date: 3/9/2021

