

Broadband Advisory Committee Minutes
1/9/2020

Attendees:

Amanda Kaufman (Deputy County Administrator), George Condyles (The Atlantic Group - Consultant), Anthony Smith (Blue Ridge Towers), Sean Cai (Blue Ridge Towers), Warner Hall (Brisconet), Ed Hoisington (BCPS), Greg Modzelewski (Broadband Advisory Committee), and Lee Walker (Broadband Advisory Committee).

Allen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Then turned the meeting over to George.

Both grants are on the Board of Supervisors consent agenda for January 13, 2020 and most likely will be approved.

Edgar, Robert and Traci could not join us they were attending the USDA broadband “Ribbon Cutting”. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business-Cooperative Service has invested \$48 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure for more than 22,600 rural households in Virginia. Two links below provide more information on this.

Moving the Hardy collection site tower a short distance to avoid the fall area being on the neighbor’s property.

Items still need to be resolved with the BRWA: 1) It has not been determined how the micro wave equipment will attach to the New London water take and the monthly cost; 2) At Wheats Valley site BRWA wants fence around the leased area, which is larger than the standard fenced in size. BRT indicated this would be very costly to do because of the topology; 3) Leases still need to be signed; 4) Land swap documents need to be signed. Amanda is working on resolving these points.

The BRWA sites represent 25% of the sites and the water tower is a critical path for the micro wave traffic.

Work continues in finalizing the Moneta’s tower location.

BRT has picked a service support site in Roanoke and is finalizing getting the site up and running.

BRT has requested a contract extension as various issue outside their control have risen. Amanda is working on what needs to be done to get the Tower Management document signed.

It was mentioned that maybe a review of what powers the county has through the Broadband Authority would be in order.

County Broadband Website can be found at:

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

Next meeting will be held 2/13/2020 at 10 a.m., again in the Main Floor Training Room in the Bedford County Administration building.

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USDA Invests \$48 Million in Broadband for Rural Virginia Communities

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2020/01/09/usda-invests-48-million-broadband-rural-virginia-communities>

Bedford County part of \$60 million broadband initiative

https://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/bedford-county-part-of-million-broadband-initiative/article_f7655424-d71c-51f0-b78d-fbb68429ac88.html