
COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COMMUNICATION

Date: December 23, 2020

Purpose:

<input type="checkbox"/> BOS Follow-Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule Notes *
<input type="checkbox"/> Future BOS Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only *
<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Issue	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

* May be combined

Title: Implementation of 5G Rural High Speed Broadband –
Belmont and Livingston towers

Summary/Analysis: Please see attached memo

Conclusion/Recommended Action: For your review

Prepared By: Jane Reeve, Director, IS *JUR*

Reviewed By: *[Signature]*



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Supervisors
Cable Commission Members

FROM: Jane Reeve, CIO *JUR*

DATE: December 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Implementation of 5G Rural High Speed Broadband Services –
Belmont and Livingston Towers

For the last 6-8 months, the County has been working with DataStream, a wireless broadband solutions provider, to finalize co-location agreements on the Belmont and Wilderness towers. DataStream approached the County to request tower space in June 2020, initially on the Belmont tower, to provide much needed 4G/LTE wireless broadband for homes in the vicinity of the tower. Agreement negotiations led to a bigger discussion for expansion of their plans to include the Wilderness tower, and both agreements were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their October and November meetings.

In October, the Governor announced a \$30 million broadband CARES Act grant, for high speed broadband projects that had to be completed and up and running by 12/25/2020, which is the deadline for the overall CARES Act. DataStream and the County, after carefully reviewing the feasibility and probability of a successful completion, put together plans to upgrade the planned 4G/LTE installation with high-speed 5G equipment, and submitted plans to the state to fund that equipment.

The grant application was approved by the state, and since that time, DataStream has been working feverishly to complete the work at both tower sites, to meet the 12/25/2020 deadline. As of this board communication, DataStream is up and running at both sites, and is working on provisioning and optimizing the service. They are prepared today to start accepting customer applications for service.

The following information has been pushed out to various community contacts in the rural areas, and you are welcome to also push this information out to any citizens/citizen groups. We are planning a formal public announcement after the first of the year, once DataStream has finalized their optimization and formally validated their coverage areas.

From DataStream - Wednesday 12/23 we will be ready to take Spotsylvania calls about the two deployments in the county. The customer service number is 877.303.8956. This link is up and can be advertised now.
<https://dsbroadband.com/sign-up/>

DataStream has been careful to caution that the influx of customer requests that are expected when advertised to the public will result in a backlog of installations. Those installations will start as soon as possible. It is also important to note that the current proposed coverage areas will not include all rural areas of Spotsylvania County; however, DataStream has future plans to continue to expand their coverage areas in the near future, based on customer demand. Their website will advertise their current plans, and customer demand will help them decide where to expand next. It is highly likely that in order to push the service out, whether it's DataStream or any other wireless company who wishes to bring service to the County, that additional towers will be required to do so. Wherever possible, existing vertical structures will be utilized.

Once this implementation is up and running, Spotsylvania County will be **one of the first localities in the state to implement rural 5G high speed broadband**. The partnership with DataStream, through the last-minute CARES Act broadband grant from the state, has made this possible, and is a tremendous first step to providing viable internet services to rural homes in Spotsylvania County.

I am off for the holidays, and will not return to work until Monday, January 4, 2021; however, I will be closely monitoring this endeavor. If you have questions or need additional information, please do hesitate to reach out, either via email or cell at 540-760-7803.