



Christian County Commission

100 West Church St, Room 100
Ozark, MO 65721

SCHEDULED

MEETING ATTACHMENTS (ID # 5335)

Meeting: 03/29/22 09:00 AM

Department: County Clerk

Category: Meeting Items

Prepared By: Paula Brumfield

Initiator: Paula Brumfield

Sponsors:

DOC ID: 5335

Meeting Attachments

ATTACHMENTS:

- 032922 Zoom Broadcasting of Commission Meetings (PDF)
- 032922 Broadband Feasibility Staff Report (PDF)
- 032922 BROADBAND - Cost Share Agreement (PDF)

Zoom broadcasting of commission mtgs
29Mar22
Added 14Mar22

Lynn M & Hosea B. both have expressed interest in making Commission meetings available again for county residents to call in and listen to proceedings.
We have tried this in the past w/ GoTo meeting...with mixed results

OPTIONS

GoTo Meeting – we have an active account
\$192.00 annually / renewing April 2, 2022

PROS

- utilize desk phone; cellular phone; or computer audio
- single, re-useable link for users to join through
- no password to join meetings
- can just call in using audio only

CONS

- organizer has total control over participant video and attendee list (hiding from all attendees), but DOES NOT have total control over audio – organizer can mute all participants, but individual user can simply unmute themselves anytime.
- require 1 time download of app to individual's computer/tablet/smartphone

Zoom – will need to purchase Pro account
\$150.00 annually

PROS

- utilize desk phone; cellular phone; or computer audio
- single, re-useable link for users to join through
- can just call in using audio only
- can allow or prevent participants from recording call session
- can mute individual participant, or all participants...then they cannot unmute themselves
- if organizer chooses to record mtg, participants are given opportunity to agree or decline participation
- less expensive than what we currently have and more relevant to commission needs
- 30hr meeting capability

CONS

- none defined



CHRISTIAN COUNTY *Resource Management Department*

1106 W. Jackson St.
Ozark, MO 65721

Telephone (417) 581-7242
Fax (417) 581-4623

Upcoming County Commission Agenda Item for March 29,2022

Broadband Feasibility Project

The expansion and provision of broadband internet connection into rural America has become a significant issue in the last decade. While other forms of traditional infrastructure have expanded slowly along with the natural growth of the rest of the built environment, internet service infrastructure is a new addition which requires exponential growth to catch up in terms of coverage. In general, it is not cost effective for a service provider to establish new service in areas with a population less than 10,000. Their return on investment time frame is over 100 years.

To date, this has been one of those issues that is so large in scope that it has been difficult to comprehend what is needed, where it is needed and how much money is needed to make a difference. In Christian County, like in many other areas, we have long been aware that we need improvements but a lack of funding and perhaps more importantly, a clear direction to utilize funding if we had it has been a roadblock.

Over the last several months, staff and elected officials from communities in Greene and Christian counties have met several times to develop a regional approach to this issue.

The recent funding packages issued by the Federal Government have placed a great deal of emphasis on trying to expand internet connectivity to areas where it is lacking. Funding is now available nationwide, and many communities are beginning to take action.

In short, our goal in this process is to place Christian County in a position to be equipped with the proper information to compete for State and Federal grant funding which builds the infrastructure and ultimately makes the provision of broadband services a viable endeavor for the actual service providers.

We want to position ourselves at the front of the line with the appropriate information needed so that if the County Commission chooses to take advantage of these funding opportunities we will be ready.

It's impossible to apply for grant funding if we don't know what we need or how much it is going to cost.

What information do we expect as a result of the study?

At a minimum, this study will yield:

- A detailed assessment the existing services currently present and the existing infrastructure we have in place.
- Graphic representation (map) showing what service options and providers are available throughout the County. Many areas already have service options from one or more providers.
- Estimated cost information to expand/upgrade connectivity throughout the areas within the study. We can expect a map which likely represents the estimated cost to establish connectivity in tiers which radiate from our population centers.

Step One: Find a consultant

As it is with most large-scale projects, the first step involves a consulting firm. The availability of funding nationwide means that the competition to find a competent consultant is great. Unlike the typical scenario where we hold all the cards when soliciting an RFP, the present environment is one where the amount of work out there is much larger than the pool of available firms to actually do the work. In order to compete, we are partnering with the municipalities in Christian County and Greene County to create a larger scale project which will serve all of our needs and also help assure that we can contract with a consulting firm fairly quickly.

The Commission's first step is to enter into an MOU with the other participating entities to share the cost of issuing an RFP for a consultant to take on this regional project.

- City Utilities will act as a neutral party and will take the necessary steps to solicit information from interested firms.
- The total cost for this process is set at \$20,000.
- Each involved entity will pay a share of the total based upon their number of addresses within the overall study area. See Exhibit "A"
- For Christian County, that percentage is 17.26% or \$3,451.00
- Within the MOU, the County is absorbing the cost for it's smaller municipalities which adds \$774.71
- In total, Christian County would pay \$4226.65

The action requested today is for the County Commission to enter into the attached cost share agreement to pay for identification of a regional broadband consultant.

Step Two: Establishing an RBI Board

This information is for action to take place in a future meeting

The other aspect to this overall project is establishing a Board for this Regional Broadband Initiative. The primary purpose of the Board will be to represent the involved communities in selecting the consultant and to establish a framework for sharing the actual cost of the feasibility study to be performed.

The projected plan is to share this expense in the same way as the breakdown for the RFP.

We will not know the actual cost to perform the study until the RFP is completed. It would be unwise to enter into an agreement which is completely open ended. With that in mind, the Commission should give consideration to a “not to exceed” amount which sets an upper limit to the County’s financial obligation.

The attached Exhibit “B” gives example cost allocation scenarios for studies at \$200K, \$400K and \$600K. With our smaller municipalities included, the Christian County portion is 21.13% which yields respective potential amounts of \$42,260 , \$84,520 and \$126,780.

A member within the group who has familiarity with these types of studies has expressed a somewhat educated guess that our project will likely fall into the \$300K range.

Additionally, the County Commission must designate a person to represent the County on this board as well as an alternate.

In the coming weeks, the legal counsel from participating entities will finalize a separate agreement which is acceptable to all parties and will be brought to the County Commission for review and approval.

If you have any questions related to this information, please don’t hesitate to contact me

Todd Wiesehan
(417) 581-7242

Exhibit "A"
RFI Cost Allocation

County	Address (Count)	% of total	% of \$20K NTE
Greene County	41,717	42.42%	\$ 8,484.84
Christian County	16,972	17.26%	\$ 3,451.94

Municipalities	Address (Count)	% of total	
Willard	2,174	2.21%	\$ 442.17
Walnut Grove	379	0.39%	\$ 77.09
Ash Grove	717	0.73%	\$ 145.83
Fair Grove	820	0.83%	\$ 166.78
Rogersville	48	0.05%	\$ 9.76
Strafford	1,119	1.14%	\$ 227.59
Republic**	7,482	7.61%	\$ 1,521.77
Battlefield*	2,437	2.48%	\$ 495.66
Fremont Hills	458	0.47%	\$ 93.15
Nixa	10,441	10.62%	\$ 2,123.60
Sparta	908	0.92%	\$ 184.68
Saddlebrooke	160	0.16%	\$ 32.54
Ozark	10,218	10.39%	\$ 2,078.24
Highlandville	484	0.49%	\$ 98.44
Clever	1,210	1.23%	\$ 246.10
Billings	589	0.60%	\$ 119.80
Total:	98,333	100.00%	\$ 20,000.00

* 66,420 addresses in Springfield and 2,437 addresses in Battlefield within SpringNet Fiber Expansion Project

** Small part of Republic is in Christian County

Exhibit "B"

RFP Cost Allocation

County	Address (Count)	% of total	% of \$200K	% of \$400K	% of \$600k
Greene County	41,717	42.42%	\$ 84,848.42	\$ 169,696.85	\$ 254,545.27
Christian County	16,972	17.26%	\$ 34,519.44	\$ 69,038.88	\$ 103,558.32

Municipalities	Address (Count)	% of total			
Willard	2,174	2.21%	\$ 4,421.71	\$ 8,843.42	\$ 13,265.13
Walnut Grove	379	0.39%	\$ 770.85	\$ 1,541.70	\$ 2,312.55
Ash Grove	717	0.73%	\$ 1,458.31	\$ 2,916.62	\$ 4,374.93
Fair Grove	820	0.83%	\$ 1,667.80	\$ 3,335.60	\$ 5,003.41
Rogersville	48	0.05%	\$ 97.63	\$ 195.25	\$ 292.88
Strafford	1,119	1.14%	\$ 2,275.94	\$ 4,551.88	\$ 6,827.82
Republic**	7,482	7.61%	\$ 15,217.68	\$ 30,435.36	\$ 45,653.04
Battlefield*	2,437	2.48%	\$ 4,956.63	\$ 9,913.25	\$ 14,869.88
Fremont Hills	458	0.47%	\$ 931.53	\$ 1,863.06	\$ 2,794.59
Nixa	10,441	10.62%	\$ 21,236.00	\$ 42,472.01	\$ 63,708.01
Sparta	908	0.92%	\$ 1,846.79	\$ 3,693.57	\$ 5,540.36
Saddlebrooke	160	0.16%	\$ 325.42	\$ 650.85	\$ 976.27
Ozark	10,218	10.39%	\$ 20,782.44	\$ 41,564.89	\$ 62,347.33
Highlandville	484	0.49%	\$ 984.41	\$ 1,968.82	\$ 2,953.23
Clever	1,210	1.23%	\$ 2,461.03	\$ 4,922.05	\$ 7,383.08
Billings	589	0.60%	\$ 1,197.97	\$ 2,395.94	\$ 3,593.91
Total:	98,333	100.00%	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 600,000.00

* 66,420 addresses in Springfield and 2,437 addresses in Battlefield within SpringNet Fiber Expansion Project

** Small part of Republic is in Christian County

COST SHARE AGREEMENT
FOR IDENTIFYING A
REGIONAL BROADBAND CONSULTANT

THIS AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made and entered into on April 1, 2022 (the “Effective Date”), regardless of when the contract is actually signed, by and between the parties defined below (collectively referred to as “Partners”) and the City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri, the contractor.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Partners have mutual interest in exploring an opportunity to improve their local community’s health, safety, and welfare by combining efforts, funds, and opportunities to improve access to broadband high-speed internet throughout the regions served by the Partners.

WHEREAS, the first step in such exploration is finding a broadband consultant who can assist the Partners in achieving the goal set out above.

WHEREAS, City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri has experience in the selection of such a broadband consultant and is willing to assist the Partners in finding a consultant who can help them achieve the goal set out above.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Parties to the Agreement. The following entities are the Partners as defined in this Agreement (in alphabetical order).
 - 1.1 Christian County Missouri, by and through the Commissions of Christian County Missouri (“Christian County”).
 - 1.2 City of Nixa, Missouri (“Nixa”).
 - 1.3 City of Ozark, Missouri (“Ozark”).
 - 1.4 City of Republic, Missouri (“Republic”).
 - 1.5 City of Strafford, Missouri (“Strafford”).
 - 1.6 City of Willard, Missouri (“Willard”).
 - 1.7 Greene County Missouri, by and through the Commissioners of Greene County, Missouri (“Greene County”).

2. Contractor and Work.
 - 2.1 City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri (“City Utilities”) will serve as a contractor to the Partners for the purpose of assisting in finding a qualified broadband feasibility consultant to conduct a feasibility analysis to improve access to broadband high-speed internet throughout the regions served by the Partners.

- 2.2 City Utilities will utilize its' procedures for obtaining professional services, obtain informal quotes from at least three (3) qualified broadband feasibility consultants, provide all such quotes to the Partners, and make a recommendation to the Partners as to which consultant it feels would be best suited for the project.
 - 2.3 City Utilities will endeavor to complete the work described in section 2.2 above within four months or as soon as practically possible.
 - 2.4 City Utilities shall not be responsible in any way any work performed by the selected broadband feasibility consultant.
3. Cost. For the services described above, City Utilities shall charge a flat fee of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).
 4. Billing. City Utilities shall submit a bill for services rendered upon completion of the work and the parties shall each pay their portion of the bill within sixty (60) calendar days.
 5. Cost Allocation. For the work performed by City Utilities, each Partner will pay to City Utilities the amount shown as their proportional share on Exhibit A under the column titled "% of \$20K NTE." The Partners shall not be jointly liable for any other Partner's share.
 6. Choice of Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with Missouri law. Venue shall be proper in accordance with Missouri law.
 7. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties relating to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any other agreements, written or oral, between the Parties concerning such subject matter.
 8. Modification. No modification of the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be or become effective except by written amendment executed by the parties.
 9. Authority. Each party represents that it has the necessary corporate, legal, and regulatory authority to enter into this Agreement and to perform each and every duty and obligation imposed therein. Each individual affixing a signature to this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she has been duly authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the party he or she represents, and that by signing the Agreement, a valid, binding and enforceable legal obligation of said party has been created.

**REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK
SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each of the Parties has caused this Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized representative.

Christian County

By: [Signature]

Name: Ralph Phillips

Title: Presiding Commissioner

Christian County

By: [Signature]

Name: Hosea Bilyeu

Title: Western Commissioner

Christian County

By: [Signature]

Name: Lynn Morris

Title: Eastern Commissioner

Attest:

[Signature]
Kay Brown, Christian County Clerk

Auditor Certification:

I certify that the expenditure contemplated by this document is within the purpose of the appropriation to which it is to be charged and that there is an unencumbered balance of anticipated revenue appropriated for payment of same.

[Signature]
Amy Dent, Christian County Auditor

Approved as to Form

By: _____
Christian County Counselor

City of Nixa

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved as to Form (City of Nixa)

By: _____

Name: _____

City of Ozark

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved as to Form (Ozark)

By: _____

Name: _____

City of Republic

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved as to Form (City of Republic)

By: _____

Name: _____

City of Strafford

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved as to Form (City of Strafford)

By: _____

Name: _____

City of Willard

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Approved as to Form (City of Willard)

By: _____

Name: _____

Greene County Commissioner

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Greene County Commissioner

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Greene County Commissioner

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Greene County Auditor

By: _____

Name: _____

**Approved as to Form
Greene County Counselor**

By: _____

Name: _____

City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri

By: _____

Name: _____

**Approved as to Form
(City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri)**

By: _____

Name: _____

EXHIBIT A
Cost share

For the work performed by City Utilities, each Partner will pay to City Utilities the amount shown as their proportional share on Exhibit A under the column titled “%of \$20K NTE” except that:

- Christian County will also be responsible for paying the shares of the following cities: Fremont Hills, Sparta, Saddlebrook, Highlandville, Clever and Billings; and
- Greene County will also be responsible for paying the shares of the following cities: Walnut Gove, Ash Grove, Fair Grove, Rogersville and Battlefield.

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Total:	98,333	100.00%	\$ 20,000.00

* A part of Battlefield is already served by City Utilities for broadband services

** A small part of Republic is in Christian County