

# Board of County Commissioners

## Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 7, 2010

Date Submitted: May 21, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Jennifer Langston, Special Projects Coordinator  
Eric Eddy, Graduate Intern

Subject: Board Approval of a Resolution of Intent to identify and convey rights of access in accordance with NFBA and federal grant requirements.

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item seeks Board Approval of a Resolution of Intent to identify and convey rights of access in accordance with NFBA and the federal grant requirements.

### **Background:**

On February 1, 2010 the Board approved an inter-local agreement, and an accompanying Resolution 2010-07 for Wakulla County to participate with the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) in an effort to bring broadband connectivity to Wakulla County residents. This inter-local agreement and resolution enabling high speed internet capability were contingent upon the NFBA Board of Directors accepting Wakulla County into the Authority's membership (Attachment #1). At that same meeting, the Board also selected Commissioner Brock to serve as Wakulla County's representative, and Mrs. Jennifer Langston as an alternate member. The NFBA Board of Directors unanimously accepted Wakulla County as its 23<sup>rd</sup> member at its Board of Directors meeting on February 17, 2010.

The NFBA submitted an application for funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to build a new Middle Mile broadband infrastructure, which extends high speed internet backbone capacity to local last-mile providers in order to serve vital public sector services and private sector commercial customers throughout the NFBA member communities. The grant program required applicants to provide 20% matching funds for any grant funds awarded. During the application process each of the NFBA member communities identified potential assets owned by the city or county that could be made available for use by the NFBA in deploying its network. Those assets were valued at nearly \$9,000,000 which allowed the NFBA to satisfy its matching funds requirement. On February 18, 2010 the NFBA received notification that the authority had been awarded \$30 million in grant funding for the broadband initiative.

Since February, Wakulla County representatives have been participating in monthly meetings with the NFBA. The NFBA has requested that each member of the NFBA identify assets that may be incorporated into the NFBA network design. These assets include: high rooftops or small towers at key facilities (school, municipal buildings, fire station, etc), or large towers (above 100ft), as well as facilities, locations, easements or land available for a potential tower to be constructed on. Staff has identified viable county assets as described above in conjunction with the City of St. Marks, the City

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of Sopchoppy, emergency management staff and the Department of Public Safety. That list has been submitted to the NFBA for review and approval.

**Analysis:**

This agenda item seeks Board approval of a Resolution of Intent which will initiate the process of contributing rights of use and access in the County owned facilities identified on the in kind asset list to the NFBA in compliance with the NTIA BTOP grant requirements. Exhibit A to the attached resolution identifies potential County assets, commits rights of use, as well as access to those assets owned by our County to the NFBA for use in its broadband network. By adopting the attached resolution, Wakulla County is continuing its commitment to facilitating the delivery of broadband access to its residents through participation in the NFBA. Within the next 60 days, a draft form of the relevant lease agreement(s) and conveyance documents will be sent to the Board for consideration and adoption at a future Board meeting.

**Options:**

1. Approve the Resolution
2. Do Not Approve the Resolution
3. Board direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1.

**Attachments:**

1. 2-1-10 Agenda Item
2. Resolution# 10-07
3. Resolution of Intent & "Exhibit A"