



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 05/08/17 04:00 PM

Department: ITS

Category: Technology

Functional Category:

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 7011

**Appropriation from Contingent Fund to Authorize Public WiFi
Internet Service and Contract**

1 WHEREAS, general public access to WiFi networks and the Internet is an increasingly common expectation
2 of people, and

3 WHEREAS, the general public is welcomed and encouraged to participate in Tompkins County government,
4 and

5 WHEREAS, participating in Tompkins County government often involves attending meetings in Tompkins
6 County buildings and accessing services and data via the Internet, and

7 WHEREAS, Tompkins County has been able to respond to the needs of the community within ever-tightening
8 fiscal constraints by providing productivity-enhancing tools to the public, and

9 WHEREAS, while the County has recently made important investments in major information technology
10 systems, which require use of the Internet to access publicly available information, data, and services, and

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) has undertaken a review of ways the
12 County can achieve greater efficiency, responsiveness, inter-connectedness, and security through changes in its office
13 automation, public services, and the implementation WiFi network, and

14 WHEREAS, this review has determined that the functionality of the County's current WiFi network does not
15 provide an adequate solution to best meet the public Internet access requirements while maintaining Tompkins County
16 IT security mandates, and

17 WHEREAS, the initial on-going net costs of the system are expected to be approximately \$10,254 annually,
18 with offsetting of resources over time as the ITS Department may no longer need to respond to public WiFi network
19 connectivity requirements, and

20 WHEREAS, it is expected that access to these improved technological tools will also contribute to higher
21 levels of public access to County data and services, and

22 WHEREAS, funds were not budgeted to provide for the proposed solution in the 2017 ITS operation budget,
23 and

24 WHEREAS, ITS will request an Over-Target Request in the 2018 budget to sustain the costs of a vendor
25 provided, public WiFi network solution that provides connectivity to the Internet and recognize that such costs are to
26 be considered a part of the "target" budget of the Department in the future, now therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations and the Budget, Capital, and
28 Personnel Committees, That Tompkins County will provide public WiFi Internet access in the Legislature
29 Chambers, the Old Jail Conference Room, the Rice Conference Room at the Public Health Department, and
30 in the first floor waiting room of the Mental Health Building,

31 RESOLVED, further, That the request for contingency funding be granted to support the transition and

1 installation of the public WiFi network system,
2

3 RESOLVED, further, That the Finance Director be and hereby is authorized to make the following
4 adjustments to his books:

5 FROM: A1990.54440 Contingent Fund \$ 5,200

6 TO: A1680.54425 Service Contracts \$ 5,200

7 **SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20



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2 **Action Requested**

3 Review of resolution and recommendations regarding the possible implementation, funding, and
4 coordination of Public Wireless Area Local Networking (WiFi) Access Points (AP) based on a
5 contracted service proposed for four County facility locations. These include the Legislature
6 Chambers, Old Jail Conference Room, Rice Conference Room (Public Health), and first floor lobby
7 at Mental Health.
8

9 **Background**

10 The Information Technology Department (ITS) has implemented a total of 23 APs which are
11 attached to the County data network and managed by ITS at the following 12 locations: Annex C,
12 Legislature Chambers, Public Health, Mental Health, HSB Annex, Department of Emergency
13 Response, Sheriff's Office, Airport Administration, District Attorney, Old Jail, Public Works (Bostwick
14 Rd), and Solid Waste. The initial purpose of the existing WiFi project was to provide a secure,
15 wireless connection to County employees and County managed devices to improve access to IT
16 resources due to the expansion of mobile devices (laptops, tablets, and smart phones). This initial
17 project, based on the procurement of APs and software, began in 2013 and was funded through
18 the ITS budget. This approach has allowed County employees to connect to the network, using
19 their normal County credentials (accounts/passwords), from areas in the above locations covered
20 by the County WiFi network. Since this time, ITS has also expanded the system and created a very
21 limited public WiFi network which only provides public access to the Internet at the following 3
22 locations: Legislature Chambers, Old Jail, Public Health. Occasionally, ITS has added and removed
23 the public WiFi service at other County locations as needed. Access to the County hosted public
24 WiFi service is currently configured to require a password.
25

26 During the March 1, 2017 Governmental Operations Committee (GO) meeting and a subsequent
27 sub-committee meeting focused on the Public WiFi topic, ITS presented two solutions. The first was
28 based on the expansion of the above described County ITS supported WiFi network. As a result of
29 this review, the GO Committee and the sub-committee determined it to be the less favorable
30 option since it would require the procurement of additional software, the reorganization of the
31 County data network to improve security and provide a tunnel for dedicated bandwidth to the
32 public, lead to additional requirements for IT support (off-hours), and possibly impact the
33 performance of critical organizational communication and data systems.
34

35 The second is a proposed vendor solution from Finger Lakes Technology Group (FLTG) which
36 provides bandwidth, equipment, and the ongoing support/management of a separate, public
37 WiFi network (similar to the Tompkins County Airport Terminal) under the terms of a current, multi-
38 year, County-wide telecommunications contract managed by ITS. The implementation of this
39 solution would be managed and coordinated by ITS with additional considerations for this project
40 including:

- 41 • Revisions to the Acceptable Use of County Information Technology Resources (07-01), or a
- 42 new WiFi/BYOD policy
- 43 • Internet filtering, password and "Splash Screen" requirements
- 44 • Access Point coverage and signal focus
- 45 • Process to review additional sites

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Financial Implications

A formal quote, which if approved, would lead to an Amendment of the existing FLTG contract. The FLTG solution as quoted for four sites would amount to a monthly cost of \$854.84, or \$10,254.48 per year, based on a 36 month term. Funds for this solution are not currently available in the ITS operational budget and would require a contingency request for a pro-rated amount if implementation of this option were implemented in 2017. Also, the annual ITS budget would require an increase by \$10,254.48 submitted as a future on-going Over Target Request for 2018 (as proposed in the draft resolution), or another option would be based on the approval of a Fiscal Target increase approved for the 2017 ITS budget.