

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Partnership Bringing Broadband to Pittsylvania County**

**WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, MARCH 19, 2021** –RiverStreet Networks and Pittsylvania County announce a partnership to bring broadband internet service to Pittsylvania County. Over the past few months, RiverStreet Networks has worked with Pittsylvania County Officials to offer much needed high-speed internet. The partnership between Pittsylvania County and RiverStreet Networks represents a significant first step in our plan to improve broadband access for residents, education, healthcare, and government organizations in Pittsylvania County. Over the next two years, eighteen towers will be constructed to provide service to nearly 9,400 locations.

“Demand for high speed broadband has never been greater and this partnership and landmark project will boost and improve service in countless households in unserved areas. Teaming up with Pittsylvania county officials will help to bridge the digital divide and keep rural communities competitive and vibrant throughout Pittsylvania county” stated Eric Cramer, President and CEO of RiverStreet Networks.

With five active towers in Grit, Callands, Mt. Airy, White Oak, and Kentuck, RiverStreet Networks is ready to serve customers in these areas with fixed wireless internet service. Fixed wireless is a type of internet service delivered using transmitters to send and receive internet signals from one point to another. These transmitters are affixed to stationary objects—like poles, buildings, or towers—at strategic locations, combining to create a wireless network. Through the help of a \$1 million investment from Pittsylvania County, an additional 13 internet towers are expected to be ready to serve county residents by the end of 2022.

“Pittsylvania County is committed to partnering with internet providers like RiverStreet to extend high-speed internet access to all corners of our county,” said Bob Warren, Chairman of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. “With remote learning and work becoming more common during the pandemic, having reliable internet at home is extremely important for every member of our community.”

### **About RiverStreet Networks**

Headquartered in Wilkesboro, NC, Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation, started in 1951 as a residential telephone cooperative to serve rural Wilkes County, NC. After completing an award-

winning Fiber-to-The-Home network to all its members, RiverStreet Networks was developed to offer the latest in technologies to areas outside of the traditional market.

RiverStreet Networks has already established a footprint in Virginia with the 2018 acquisitions of People's Mutual Telephone Company (Gretna, VA) and Gamewood Technology Group (Danville, VA). Our People's Mutual networks service area includes Gretna, Hurt, Renan and our Sandy Level exchange in Pittsylvania County. Our Gamewood Technology Group coverage area consists of the City of Danville and parts of Pittsylvania County as well as other parts of rural Virginia. The combination of these companies and our most recent acquisition of SCS Broadband in 2021, will allow us to expand our relationship in Pittsylvania County and help us to achieve our mutual goal of providing more rural communities with broadband connectivity. The motivation is to continue the trend of access to high speed internet in rural America by branching out to help the unserved and underserved. *Learn more at [myriverstreet.net](http://myriverstreet.net).*

### **Pittsylvania County's commitment to Expand Broadband Access**

The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors is committed to expanding access to reliable, high-speed and affordable internet access across our county. As part of a strategic plan adopted in 2019, the Board of Supervisors identified its goal of providing broadband availability to 90% of residents by 2024. Pittsylvania County leaders understand the crucial role that broadband access plays in our world, which is why we are investing \$1 million of CARES Act funds into this partnership with RiverStreet Networks to extend access throughout unserved areas of our community.