



FY2019 Capital Program  
Project Scope, Budget, and Schedule Worksheet  
Financial Town Meeting  
May 7, 2018

**Island-Wide Broadband Network  
Design-Build Contract Request for Proposals (RFP)  
Island-Wide**

Project Cost: \$125,000  
Project Schedule: May 8, 2018 – December 31, 2018

---

**Warrant Question:**

To authorize the Town Treasurer of said Town, pursuant to RIGL Chapter 45-12-2, with the consent and approval of the Town Council to issue and refund from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 to engage the technical expertise necessary for the Town to draft, issue and evaluate responses to a Request for Proposals and if necessary facilitate contract negotiations for the design, construction, implementation, operation and/or maintenance of the island-wide broadband network, the terms and conditions of such bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness to be set by a resolution of the Town Council or by the Town Treasurer and the First Warden in the absence of such resolution. Or in the alternative, to finance such amounts from reserves, as determined by the Town Treasurer with the consent and approval of the Town Council.

**Project Scope of Work:**

The project includes engaging technical expertise necessary for the Town to draft, issue and evaluate responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) and if necessary, facilitate contract negotiations for the design, construction, implementation, operation and maintenance of a Town-owned island-wide fiber optic broadband network. The Broadband Committee has identified certain aspects of the island-wide network that are critical characteristics including a network infrastructure that must be affordable, reliable, minimum 20-year life, and offer best service levels available. It must be sustainable and serve residents, businesses, visitors and all Town facilities. While the Broadband Committee has engaged a number of technical vendors, contractors, service providers, and industry leaders, there are a number of viable approaches that could meet the Town's needs. This project will define key network characteristics, specifications, performance outcomes and ownership structures while leveraging the expertise and innovative problem solving of the industry experts by inviting those vendors to illustrate, in a design and construction proposal, their innovative answer to Block Island's broadband needs. The process will result in project documentation to present to the community at a Special Town Meeting an island-wide network design, hard costs for construction and operation, and a proposed funding structure for public consideration.

**Project Budget:**

Total project estimated budget to engage technical assistance necessary for the development of a technical proposal for a Town-owned island-wide fiber optic broadband network is \$125,000.

Annual debt service on the total \$125,000 is estimated to be \$9,140 over 20 years, or \$4.00 in taxes annually on a property assessed at \$1M.

**Project Schedule:**

Solicitation for technical assistance to develop, issue, and evaluate responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) is expected to begin in May 2018. Project specific documentation including scope of work, budget, and schedule is expected to be complete by December 31, 2018. A project for an island-wide network will be presented to the community at a Special Town Meeting in late 2018 or early 2019.