

Tazewell County announces the "WSA Customer Transition Program"

"The Tazewell County Board of Supervisors and the Wireless Services Authority (WSA) have approved a micro grant program for residents in Tannersville, Witten Valley, and The Cove who lost internet service due to Gigabeam's contract with the County expiring. Point Broadband recently extended landline services in those areas and most customers switched to Point. Point's expansion was funded by federal grants and Point is partially publicly owned. Point could not reach some residences because the cost was too high. At the same time too few wireless customers remained for Gigabeam to continue operating. This left some customers without service due to Point's expansion.

Tazewell County intends to dissolve the Wireless Services Authority for the same reason. However, the Board decided to use remaining WSA funds, paid by former customers of the system, to fund a one time \$250.00 grant to customers who lost service due to Gigabeam's ending service in the affected areas. If you live in one of these areas, were a Gigabeam customer as of January 1, 2025, and connecting to Point is too expensive, you may be eligible for this one time grant. The grants are intended to help customers install satellite internet service, if they chose to do so.

Applications must be made in person at 197 Main Street Tazewell, Virginia between 8 and 4:30 Monday through Friday. Applications will be accepted until January 17, 2027. However, grants will be made first come first serve. Once total available funding has been expended the program will close.