



Minutes - May 17, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 in Conference Room N1, 51 S Main St, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Wilson, Sutterlin, Beaver, Bostwick, Winter, Mawhinney and Sweeney.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Randy Terronez, Assistant to the Administrator; James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager; Kathleen Holford, Computer Network Engineer.

Others Present: Supervisor Towns; Tim Tollefson, Harmony Town Clerk; Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking; Mitchel Olson, Bug Tussel.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Wilson moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: No comment submitted.

Approval of Minutes:

February 15, 2022: Supervisor Wilson moved approval of the February 15, 2022 minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

February 24, 2022 Joint Ad Hoc Broadband-Planning & Development-Finance: Supervisor Wilson moved approval of the February 24, 2022 joint meeting minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Update on Funding Bug Tussel Project - PSC Grant: Mitchel Olson updated the committee on the broadband application. The grant was submitted. There were a few objections received. Mitch let the committee know that this is normal and there are often objections received. We are now in the review period with the PSC. The initial borrowing resolution will be coming to the County Board for approval shortly.

Randy stated that he has received requests for more detailed middle-mile maps. These will be

available soon.

The committee discussed coordinating with the towns and other broadband providers to ensure that there isn't overlap.

Review of Bond Financing Steps: Initial Bonding Resolution and Final Bonding Resolution:

Randy informed the committee that the county has found a bonding law firm. The initial borrowing resolution will be coming to the County Board for approval soon.

Nokomis Networking - Russ Berg: Russell Berg introduced himself to the new committee members.

Current Market Assessment: James Otterstein informed the committee that the speed tests continue to come in. More reminders would be helpful to get more tests in. More tests in the eastern part of the county would be helpful. There is a concentration of low speeds being recorded.

County Needs/Wants: No updates.

Technology Options: Randy stated that a County Board Supervisor had asked about Starlink. Russ let the committee know that the deployment of those satellites is not yet complete. This project is coming along, though.

Funding Options: Russ let the committee know of some funding options from the federal government. Last Friday, the NTIA, under the US Department of Commerce, opened up two programs. These applications are very extensive. One of them is a middle-mile infrastructure broadband program (MMG Program). These will be due September 30. He highlighted those that are eligible to apply and other eligibility requirements. The other grant is the BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program). This is a larger program. The BEAD program is looking for funding at the state-level. The states must submit a letter of intent by July 18. Some of the deadlines for this program are a little up-in-the-air. Russ will provide additional information as it is available.

Partnerships: No updates.

Intergovernmental Activities: Randy let the committee know that the Towns Association meeting is coming up Thursday night. Supervisor Bostwick advocated bringing up the speed test and new tower/fiber installation at the Towns Association meeting.

Discussion of Next Steps: We are waiting for the PSC grant. There will be a place on the County website on what is happening with broadband in the County. Maps of middle-mile fiber will be available soon. Supervisor Sweeney advocated for continuously evaluating where gaps are in broadband service. The committee discussed the need to continue getting information out to residents and reminding them of these efforts.

The committee discussed the benefits to having fiber-to-the-home.

Director/Staff Reports: None.

Next meeting date and time: TBD pending more information on PSC grant.

Adjournment: Supervisor Beaver moved to adjourn at 5:17 P.M., second by Supervisor Wilson.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

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