



JOINT MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Minutes - June 23, 2022

Call to Order: Chair Mawhinney called the joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Ad Hoc Broadband Committee in the Jury Deliberation Room at 4:30 P.M. on June 23, 2022.

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

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Fox.

Staff Members Present: Lisa Tollefson, County Clerk; Sherry Oja, Finance Director; James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager; Josh Smith, County Administrator; Randy Terronez, Assistant to the Administrator; Rich Greenlee, Corporation Counsel;.

Others Present: Supervisors Towns, Woodman, and Zoril; Russ Berg, Nokomis Networking; Mitch Olson, Bug Tussel.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Bostwick moved approval of the agenda, second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Wyatt Destler, Beloit Public Library IT, spoke about, as well as in favor of, the Community Area Network (CAN). Wyatt suggested making the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee a standing committee.

Mike Sindahl, Beloit Turner School District, submitted a public comment supporting further investigation into how the funds allocated for broadband could best support Rock County. He also explained the benefits of a CAN.

Supervisor Zoril proposed that the amount be changed from \$8 million to \$10.9 million. This would move money around and free up funds for the CAN project.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Discussion of Financial Review of Bug Tussel Wireless: Supervisor Farrell provided a summary of his professional background. He went over some of the procedures he followed to perform his analysis; and then he summarized his findings. Regarding the Dun & Bradstreet report, Supervisor Farrell highlighted various items, ranging from positive to potentially concerning trends. He was appreciative of the detailed information provided by Bug Tussel; and was also impressed at their level of transparency. Overall, there were no major red flags.

In addition to Supervisor Farrell's independent review, he also enlisted the advice and counsel of three area banking representatives. Their feedback mirrored his findings: Bug Tussel's financial and operational performances were trending in the right direction. Supplemental reviews were conducted by Supervisors Towns and Zoril, as well.

Supervisor Farrell concluded that although the proposed broadband public/private partnership is a risk, it is a reasonable risk. In addition to providing his endorsement, Supervisor Farrell also encouraged the Finance Committee to continue receiving financial and operational documentation from Bug Tussel. These steps will provide an extra oversight mechanism for the broadband project.

The committee and attending County Board Supervisors expressed their thanks to Supervisor Farrell.

Supervisor Wilson moved to endorse the resolution, second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Adjournment: Supervisor Bostwick moved to adjourn at 5:06 P.M., second by Supervisor Sweeney. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.

Good afternoon,

My name is Wyatt Ditzler. I presently serve as the IT Manager at the Beloit Public Library. Around 10 years ago, I and other IT leaders around the area resurrected a group that aims to build a community area network or CAN. Speaking on behalf of Beloit Public Library and other members of SoWiCAN, the previously mentioned CAN, I would like to express our appreciation for dutifully researching and moving county broadband access forward.

SoWiCAN's goal is to provide community anchor institutions access to a highspeed, secure, and scalable fiber network that does not rely upon interconnections. I just mentioned to you one large term: community anchor institutions. These are governments, schools, libraries, colleges, and universities. Some also include large employers, but as WI State Statute 66.0422 excludes local government from providing video service, telecommunications, and broadband facilities to the public in most scenarios, many exclude large employers from the community anchor institution term. An example of an interconnection is Beloit Public Library utilizing AT&T's network to reach our WiscNet connection at their point of presence, called a POP, in the southeast area of Janesville. My colleague Mike Sindahl, Director of Technology for the School District of Beloit Turner mentions this in his written comment to the Adhoc Broadband Committee on June 23.

Haley Hoffman

From: Rock County Website <noreplywebsite@co.rock.wi.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 11:42 AM
To: PUBLIC COMMENT
Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Public Comment Submission Form

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Rock County email domain. Do not click any links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you feel this email is a potential phishing attempt, please submit it using the Phish Notify button. If you interacted with any links or attachments that you feel were malicious, please contact Rock-IT immediately.

Public Comment Submission Form

Submission #: 1763002
IP Address: 216.56.248.50
Submission Date: 06/23/2022 11:41
Survey Time: 47 minutes, 8 seconds

You have a new online form submission.

Note: all answers displaying "*****" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

Please enter the agenda topic, if applicable, and any written comment you wish to submit here:

Broadband Project Updates: My name is Mike Sindahl and I am the Director of Technology for the School District of Beloit Turner. I am writing to the Finance Committee and Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to share my support for further investigating how the funds allocated for broadband expansion could best support our area. SoWICAN is a group of Technology Directors from local school districts, municipalities, and other organizations that has been meeting since 2012 with a goal of building a Community Area Network (CAN) that would also connect us directly to DET's Badgernet broadband service. There are many benefits of a CAN, but the three that are most exciting for the organizations who are able to connect to this broadband are, 1.) Future-proofing by providing instant access to the Internet (Beloit Turner's Internet connection speed would be increased 10x); 2.) Cost savings and independence from Internet Service Providers being used for transport; 3.) Potential partnerships and/or shared services between public entities that are only feasible to pursue when a CAN is established. Lastly, having just built a fiber line to our new intermediate school, Garden Prairie Intermediate, I would like to share our process that we followed when building our fiber. First, we identified our needs as a district and determined that the best solution to connect our new school would be to build our own fiber. Second, we had Multimedia Communications & Engineering (MCE) engineer the fiber construction so that we could do a request for proposals. After receiving proposals, we were able to choose the lowest bid to build our fiber and propose that to our school board. The first two steps were critical to making sure that we were making the right, fiscally responsible, decision. Please be sure that this \$13 million is used in the best way possible that benefits the people of Rock County.

Full Name

Mike Sindahl

Meeting Date

06/23/2022 12:00 AM

Address

1237 Inman Pkwy.

City and State

Beloit, WI

Email

sindahlm@turnerschools.org

Phone

6083646372 ext. 1836

Organization Representing (if applicable)

School District of Beloit Turner

Thank you,

Rock County, WI

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.