



AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Minutes – October 20, 2021

Call to Order. Chair Bostwick called the (virtual hybrid) meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to order at 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members Present via phone: Supervisors Mawhinney, Beaver, Wilson, Richard Bostwick, Homan, Sweeney, and Davis.

Committee Members Absent: None.

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

Others Present: Tim Tollefson, Town of Harmony; AJ Becker, Sonic Spectrum; and Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking.

Approval of Agenda. Supervisor Mawhinney moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes – August 25, 2021 and September 22, 2021

Supervisor Homan moved approval of the August 25, 2021 and September 22, 2021 minutes as presented, second by Supervisor Wilson. ADOPTED.

Sonic Spectrum – AJ Becker

AJ Becker spoke to the committee. He gave some background information on Sonic Spectrum. In addition, he highlighted the company's current initiatives; he discussed their future broadband plans (emphasis on Rock County); and then he answered questions from the committee.

Discussion Items

Current Market Assessment

Russell Berg informed the committee that Bug Tussel's PSC Broadband Grant application for Rock County was not funded. He added that Spectrum Mid-American LLC (i.e. Charter) was awarded a grant, to provide fiber to the home in the Town of Janesville.

County Needs/Wants

Russ has been working with the County's IT Dept.; and additional outreach has been made with other groups to determine their broadband interests, projects, etc.

Technology Options – Current/Future

Russ noted there were no additional updates regarding these topics.

Partnerships

Russ discussed the upcoming PSC broadband grant cycle, and suggested that now was the time to begin actively positioning/preparing and investigating whether any potential broadband partnerships could/would exist.

Funding Options

Per the above update, Russ shared a number funding-related topics with the committee; and referenced the information exchanges that he and Randy T. had since the last committee meeting.

Resolutions for Grant Eligibility

Russ touched on the Broadband Forward! and Telecommuter Forward! Initiatives, which are mechanisms available to the County that can strengthen future state and/or federal broadband funding applications. Randy T. noted that he and James O. would investigate.

Towns Association Update – Harmony Town Clerk, Tim Tollefson

None.

Discussion on next steps

None.

Set Next Meeting Time and Place

The next Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting, which will be offered in a virtual hybrid format, is set for November 17, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

Adjournment.

Supervisor Homan moved adjournment at 5:02 P.M., second by Supervisor Wilson.
ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

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