



AD HOC BROADBAND COMMITTEE
Minutes – August 10, 2021

Call to Order. Chair Bostwick called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to order at 10:30 A.M. via telephone conference.

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

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present via Phone: Randy Terronez, Assistant to County Administrator; Bridget Laurent, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Jim Sandvig, Director of IT; James Otterstein, Economic Development Manager; and Josh Smith, County Administrator.

Others Present: Supervisors Wilson and Beaver; Steve Schneider, Bug Tussel; Kim Gruebling, Town of Union; Tim Tollefson, Town of Harmony; and Russell Berg, Nokomis Networking.

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

Discussion of Next Steps

James Otterstein suggested given timing and priorities, the County should move forward without a broadband needs assessment. For example, a number of Rock County broadband applications have been submitted and several resident/stakeholder forums have been convened throughout the County during the recent years. As a result, ample documentation has already been compiled regarding broadband coverage and speeds. In consideration of the complexities and nuances of this data, though, the County will need to utilize a third-party to help identify and prioritize its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) broadband investments.

Randy went over the Next Steps sheet that was included in the agenda packet. The committee identified that the immediate next step is to let the municipalities know that Rock County has an Ad Hoc Broadband Committee and is working to improve broadband in Rock County.

Discussion and possible approval of resolution to contract with Nokomis Networking for consulting services

“**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly assembled this ____ day of ____, 2021, does hereby authorize a contract with Nokomis Networking for broadband consulting services with funds to come from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 2021 budget be amended as follow:

....”

Supervisor Sweeney moved approval of the above resolution, second by Supervisor Davis. ADOPTED.

Set Next Meeting Time and Place

The next Ad Hoc Broadband Committee meeting is set for August 25, 2021 at 1:00 P.M. to occur over as a hybrid meeting. Randy informed the committee that after this meeting, the resolution to contract with Nokomis Networking will go to Finance Committee, Planning & Development Committee, and County Board this week for approval.

Adjournment. Supervisor Davis moved adjournment at 11:30 A.M., second by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Haley Hoffman
Office Coordinator

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.