

## **BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE: BROADBAND  
DATE: AUGUST 30, 2022  
TIME: 4:30 P.M.  
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARDROOM

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lukas called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and read the agenda.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Lukas, Chaney, Gretzinger

Absent: Black

Other Members: Chris Stark (UW-Extension), Kayla Littleton (GIS Tech), Stephanie Statezny (E.M. Director), Amber Rehberg (UW-Extension), Ron Skallerud (Sheriff), Chris Shaefer (FCEDP)

Others Present: Nora Matuszewski, Brad Bessert, Patrick Voigtman, Mark Dodge (Bug Tussel), Steve Kircher,

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Chaney to approve the agenda, second by Gretzinger. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES FROM JULY 26, 2022 MEETING**

Motion by Chaney to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2022 meeting, second by Gretzinger. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brad Bessert wanted to bring up the Public Service Commission website and all of the information a person can get off the website as well as sign up for email newsletter updates. He said there are two grants right now that were for establishing the middle mile.

Lukas wondered if the USDA Rural Development, who is hiring staff to write grants could be used for Broadband grants. Stark felt these grant writers would be used for the housing situation, not economic growth. He wanted to talk about the billion dollar grants out there for the middle mile. He said the grant has "27 hoops" that you have to get through to get them. They would have to drop everything to work on the grants because one (1) is due on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and it is not a good idea stop working on everything else for it. There are other grants they are working on.

For future grants the county needs to get the MAP data out first. Littleton said they would be working on another round of speed tests.

Pat Voigtman – Jungle Lake still does not have internet.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session: the committee may consider a motion to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. stat. § 19.85(1)(e) "deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session," this Closed session relates to:

- DISCUSSION WITH CIRINTY

Motion by Chaney to convene to closed session, second by Gretzinger. All present voting; Chaney (AYE), Gretzinger (AYE), Lukas (AYE). Motion carried.

## RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Chaney to reconvene to open session to take action, if appropriate, on matters discussed in closed session, second by Gretzinger. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

No Action

## REPORT FROM EM DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY LIO ON WHAT WAS LEARNED AT THE REGIONAL BROADBAND MEETING

UW-Extension Amber Rehberg also attended the meeting. Statezny told the committee, broadband carriers were there, Charter, Astea and Bug Tussel. She said they all updated the counties on where they were and progress of projects. They spoke of Boulder Junction and how they were considered a “pilot program” and were successful with their Broadband project.

## REPORT STATUS FROM BUG TUSSEL (MARK DODGE)

Mark Dodge and Jason Weid were present from Bug Tussel with an update on the current project Forest County has with Northwoods Connect. They explained some difficulties they have encountered with the past company and are working very hard to move forward to get the project done in time. They know there are two (2) areas not going to be finished and they will have to file for an extension for them. Some of the issue was with supply, but they have assured it will be completed. Right now, there are currently 1200 customers signed up in Forest County for the internet service. The second phase they have already done the engineering and will have to be completed by the end of 2024.

Dodge brought in a progress binder for the current project and will be supplying monthly updates for both projects when the agreement for the second project is signed and they can proceed.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None announced

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chaney to adjourn, second by Gretzinger. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Broadband meeting.