

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: BROADBAND
DATE: MAY 23, 2023
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: Black, Gretzinger, Lukas, Skallerud

Absent: Walrath

Other Members: Stephanie Montgomery (E.M. Director)(Teams), Chris Shafer (FCEDP)(phone), Amber Rehberg (UW-Extension Director), Kayla Littleton (LCC)

Others Present: Nora Matuszewski, Representative from Bug Tussel (Mitch Olson), Steve Watson, Heather Ostrowski

APPROVE AGENDA

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

APPROVE MINUTES FROM MARCH 28, 2023 MEETING

Motion by Black to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2023 meeting, second by Skallerud. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DIGITAL NAVIGATOR UPDATE

Watson went through a few handouts he put together for the committee and the public. He explained how many people he has served and explained some interesting issues he has run into and has been able to resolve for the clients. His feedback from clients has been 100% positive, which to date has been 24. Lukas asked about the progress of the program and Rehberg told him they are progressing very well and she has no concerns. Watson and team have found someone to work with them on refurbished equipment for the public.

DISCUSSION WITH BUG TUSSEL ON PHASE #1 OF PROJECT PROGRESSION AND PSC SUBMISSIONS

Olson explained they are still good until the end of the year and progressing and are still not able to draw on the rest of the PSC funding because they are at 90% and need to have the project finished to draw on the final funds.

DISCUSSION/ACTION WITH BUG TUSSEL ON PHASE #2 OF PROJECT – PROJECT SCOPE DISCUSSION/ACTION ON PROJECT #3 AND TIMELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS MOVING FORWARD

Project #2 and #3 are going to be discussed under one item because Olson explained he looks at them as one project and whether or not #3 goes through or not. He explained the bonding only determines how much line is being put in the ground. Lukas asked about the final placement of lines and if the County will have any say in it, and Olson said there can be some involvement in where the lines end up. Lukas also asked about the list of where the lines can be put in for the County. Gretzinger asked about the Financials for Bug Tussel and Olson assured he would have them available by the next meeting. Gretzinger also asked who would be reviewing them, our

Corporation Counsel or our Financial Advisor. She wanted to make sure they were available so there would be no problems at the County Board. Lukas will make sure that Belongia (Financial Advisor) is available for the next County Board meeting.

UPDATE – FCEDP COORDINATOR

Shafer told the committee there are no final answers on the RPN yet. There was discussion led by Rehberg on making sure the information is getting out to the public for the Broadband. Black had a Towns Association meeting with around fifty (50) people in attendance with Watson, Shafer and others to discuss the Broadband and it was very well received. The committee discussed ways to get the word out, which included another Towns Association meeting sometime in August and possibly getting something out in the papers or having meetings in local areas around the county.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SETTING NEXT MEETING

- June 27, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- Communication with the Public
- Digital Navigator Update

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Black to adjourn, second by Skallerud. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

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