

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE: BROADBAND
DATE: JULY 24, 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), Chris Shafer (FCEDP)(phone), Amber Rehberg (UW-Extension Director), Kayla Littleton (LCC)

Others Present: Nora Matuszewski, Representatives from Bertram Communications (Jim Bertram), 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 MAY 23, 2023 MEETING

Motion by Gretzinger to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2023 meeting, second by Shafer. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION BY BERTRAM COMMUNICATIONS

Several representatives from Bertram Communications; which included the owner (Jim Bertram) were present to give the committee a presentation on how the company came about and what services they could offer the county. They had a power point and handed out some information on broadband projects, what is needed to put in broadband, ways to pull in money (grants, donations, etc.) for a project and expected costs to get internet to everyone in Forest County. They explained engineering costs and what they do to help out communities when taking on broadband expansion projects. They showed the committee how they look toward the future whenever they install any type of equipment in the ground or on peoples houses.

DIGITAL NAVIGATOR UPDATE; POSSIBLE ACTION

Watson updated the committee on the progression of the program to date and future goals. He currently has 42 clients and is looking to do a follow up survey after the 3rd session he has with someone. He has ordered devices and is looking for ideas on future events to bring more people in and get out the word that he is available to help. A goal for October is to do something for Cyber Security Awareness. There was discussion on a time to work with county board members who have a hard time with the technology and possibly getting devices to some of them in need.

UPDATE – FCEDP COORDINATOR

Nothing currently

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SETTING NEXT MEETING

- Digital Navigator Update

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Skallerud to adjourn, second by Shafer. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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