

9/24/2020 Mtg.

Call to Order: Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present - Dan Olson, Ryan Hoffman, Jeff Wisnicky, Jeff Vollenweider, Richard Baker, August Neverman, Bob Weidner, Scott Feldt. others Present - Frank Madzarevic, Steve Schneider, Scott Nastovitz, Jessica Williams

Approval of September 24, 2020 Agenda: Hoffman moved and Baker seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of the August 27, 2020 Minutes: Vollenweider moved and Hoffman seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Update: Broadband Expansion Grant - Project Status: Schneider provided to the Committee a summary of actions taken so far. Schneider provided a map of the locations selected so far. He went on to explain that Bug Tussel has completed the location portion of the project and is the leasing portion of the projects. Schneider believes that the leases with the various landowners will be signed within the coming weeks. The next phase. To follow is the regulatory phase. Schneider explained there are 27 regulatory approvals that are needed before construction can begin. The shortest time for all approvals to be obtained is 105 days. The approval from local zoning authorities often take the longest. Bug Tussel will move forward with tower construction once approvals have been obtained. Schneider explained that they have equipment that allows for digging and construction regardless of the weather.

Schneider indicated that Bug Tussel has finally closed on the tower in Luxemburg. Bug Tussel will move forward with co-location of equipment on existing towers (Bug Tussel, Kewaunee County and Vertical Bridge) will be started before the new towers are built as they do not need regulatory approvals.

Discussion: Phase 2 Broadband Project - Review of Possible Proposals: Schneider presented a map that outlines the request of the committee to provide a proposal that connects fiber optic cable to all fixed wireless towers. The outline provides potential fiber routes and corresponding costs as one project and as two smaller projects. Schneider helped to paint a picture as to how the project would relate to the larger Bug Tussel Wireless network. Schneider provided the assumptions incorporated into the proposal. The proposals include and exclude the use of existing Cellcom (NSight) fiber routes. Discussion followed regarding the project costs and what would the county share be. Additional discussion related to the ability of the County to fund the project. Schneider indicated that if the project were approved and grant funds were awarded, the project could not begin until 2022. The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of applying for the Broadband Expansion grant, whether it was better to apply now as the funds available are larger \$24 million), or wait until a consensus can be reached by the community. The committee agreed it is better to apply now as the application and potential award of grant funds does not obligate the County to move forward. Vollenweider moved and Baker seconded to recommend to the Executive Committee to move forward with the next phase of the project

(Phase 2). Phase 2 should comprise of two separate components. The County should submit an application by December 1, 2020, for the next round of broadband expansion grant funds offered by the Public Service Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the County Board Room.

Adjournment: Hoffman moved and Baker seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.