

TAYLOR COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE

May 10, 2022

County Board Room, Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Mike Bub called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Bub, Rollie Thums, Chuck Zenner, Sue Swiantek, Gene Knoll, Ken Ceaglske, Michelle Grimm.

Members Present via Zoom: James Stokes.

Members Absent: Melissa Lind.

Other Attendees: Dennis Hinderliter, Larry Brandl, and Andria Farrand.

Other attendees via Zoom: Russell Berg, Mitchel Olson- Bug Tussel, Stan Schmidt, Jane DeStaercke, Candice Grunseth, Blake Mayfield- WanRack, Damian Jones.

Approve the agenda: Motion by Thums, seconded by Zenner, to approve the agenda with 11 items. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022, meeting: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Discuss WanRack meeting for the end of May or early June: Blake addressed the committee stating that WanRack will be in Taylor County, June 7th and 8th to hold an open house for all businesses.

Construction update: Bub stated that WanRack is on site in Taylor County now putting fiber in the conduit. They are expected to be finished by June 30th. Jeff Woods of WanRack will be here for the open house and they will have pricing for internet services available. We will send letters to businesses to invite them to the open house, as well as advertise on the radio and in the Star News. Grimm, Swiantek and Farrand will work on the letters to the businesses.

Discuss the status of Bug Tussel project: Mitch of Bug Tussel stated that all is moving forward, and we should have the final resolution in 6-8 weeks.

Update on the equipment ordered for County Sites: Russ stated that equipment has been arriving at the Courthouse. The WanRack provided fiber jumpers and SFP will be delivered to Melissa next week. WanRack will also have technical people here on June 7th and 8th as the Courthouse needs to be upgraded first before the other sites can be done. The Cisco switches are still expected in October.

Update on PSC grants: Berg stated that the objection period and rebuttal periods have expired. Mitch responded to several objections. Taylor County didn't have a specific objection, we were included in an objection from Charter for several counties.

Set next meeting date: The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 14th at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Andria Farrand
County Clerk

TAYLOR COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE

April 12, 2022

County Board Room, Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Mike Bub called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Bub, Rollie Thums, Chuck Zenner, Gene Knoll, Ken Ceaglske, James Stokes, Michelle Grimm.

Members Present via Zoom: Melissa Lind.

Members Absent: Gene Knoll and Michael Schafer.

Other Attendees: Dennis Hinderliter, Larry Brandl, Brian Della-PMA Securities, Steve Deml and Andria Farrand.

Other attendees via Zoom: Russell Berg, Mitchel Olson- Bug Tussel, Bob Judnic, Stan Schmidt, Jane DeStaercke.

Approve the agenda: Motion by Thums, seconded by Zenner, to approve the agenda with 10 items. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022, meeting: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Discuss financial advisory services associated with potential conduit debt issue to finance telecommunications projects in Taylor County: Brian Della of PMA Securities was present to address the committee regarding his services. He stated that he represented Jackson County when they did the same project last year with Bug Tussel so he is very familiar with it. His costs would come out of the bond proceeds, so it is not an out-of-pocket expense. He stated that the more counties that utilize his services, the cost is split among all counties with a ceiling of \$3.00 per bond. For example, Jackson County's was 12 million for a cost of \$36,000.00. The committee asked some questions, but no action was taken.

Update on the equipment ordered for the sites: Lind stated that the equipment needed for fiber has pushed out to late August 2022. The Cisco switches are pushed out to October. She stated the delays are at Cisco, the manufacturer. Bub asked if there any alternatives? Mitch said he will check into it. Bub stated we need to find a different solution.

Update on WanRack and Bug Tussel PSC grant applications: Bub stated there were 460 grant applications submitted for \$120 million in grant dollars. At this point there have been no objections to our applications. The applications were due on March 17th and there is then a 30-day window for objections, followed by another 30-day window for rebuttal to objections. We should find out in May or June.

Update on WanRack construction: WanRack is back working in Taylor County and has crews on site. Ben Stanfley, Highway Commissioner granted exemptions to the weight limits, as did the townships they will be working in. Clark County did not provide exemptions to the POP in Thorp is not being worked on.

Set next meeting date: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10th at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Andria Farrand
County Clerk

TAYLOR COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE

March 1, 2022

County Board Room, Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Mike Bub called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Bub, Rollie Thums, Chuck Zenner, Gene Knoll, Ken Ceaglske, Dennis Hinderliter.

Members Present via Zoom: Mike Schaefer, James Stokes, Michelle Grimm and Melissa Lind.

Members Absent: none.

Other Attendees: Lester Lewis, Larry Brandl, and Andria Farrand.

Other attendees via Zoom: Russell Berg, Blake Mayfield- WanRack, Mitchel Olson- Bug Tussel, Steve Schneider- Bug Tussel, Joe Svejda, Ben Stanfley, Bob Judnic, Stan Schmidt, Rebecca Speckhard-Quarles and Brady.

Approve the agenda: Motion by Thums, seconded by Knoll, to approve the agenda with 9 items. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022, meeting: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Update on the equipment ordered for connections in County facilities: Still waiting for an ETA on the internal switching unit for the Courthouse, which is a critical piece. Heartland Business Systems is designing the installation.

Discuss/approve the proposal from Bug Tussel for Taylor County project: Steve Schneider of Bug Tussel was present via Zoom and stated they are proactively working with AT&T, and the conduit and fiber are ordered in anticipation of us signing the contract. Supervisor Knoll asked for a breakdown of the budget and Schneider said they would send it. Knoll also asked for a timeline and the price to the consumer with the increase in cost, of not to exceed 14 million. Schneider stated it would be complete in 3 years, the goal is to have it significantly done by the end of 2023. The price to the consumer will stay in the \$50.00-\$62.00 range depending on fiber to the home or wireless. Rebecca Speckhard-Quarles and Brady was present via Zoom and had no concerns with the bonding resolution. Bug Tussel and WanRack will have an agreement to swap 4 fibers, with no revenue. Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to approve the initial revenue bond financing for Bug Tussel. A roll call vote cast, all six-voting aye, zero voting no, the motion carried.

Next round of grant applications: It was mentioned that the WanRack and Bug Tussel grant applications cannot overlap, so they will work together to combine their efforts. Zenner stated the Economic Development Committee met and will send letters of support to include with the grant applications. Farrand will send an email to the Town Chairs/Village Presidents and all Municipal Clerks asking for them to draft letters of support prior to their town meetings this week. Farrand will also ask Sue Emmerich to post a request for letters of support on the Chamber Facebook page. Grant applications are due March 17th.

Other items for the Committee: There was discussion on the WanRack contract amendment. Knoll suggested adding a penalty of \$5,000.00 per day that they're past the June 30th deadline. Blake Mayfield of WanRack stated the installation crew is confident with the June 30th date of completion.

They will start working again in Taylor County on April 1st. Thums suggested a \$1,000.00 per day penalty. Motion by Stokes, seconded by Zenner, to add a \$1,000.00 per day penalty if completed after June 30th. Six voted aye, one voted no (Bub). Motion carried.

Set next meeting date: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Knoll, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Andria Farrand
County Clerk

TAYLOR COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE

February 8, 2022

County Board Room, Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Mike Bub called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Bub, Rollie Thums, Chuck Zenner, Ken Ceaglske, Dennis Hinderliter, Michelle Grimm.

Members Present via Zoom: Gene Knoll and James Stokes.

Members Absent: Mike Schaefer and Melissa Lind.

Other Attendees: Larry Brandl, Steve Deml and Andria Farrand.

Other attendees via Zoom: Russell Berg, Mitchel Olson of Bug Tussel, Jane De Staercke, Bob Judnic, Josh Klingbeil, Stan Schmidt and Jim Mass- Ciena.

Approve the agenda: Motion by Thums, seconded by Zenner, to approve the agenda with 12 items. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022, meeting: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Thums, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Update on the equipment ordered for connections in County facilities: Equipment is ordered with Heartland Business Systems and is starting to arrive. Melissa and Jen will be involved with the installation and maintenance of the equipment as it is County owned. The Courthouse will be updated and stable before the town halls are added. The libraries, schools and town halls will all have; a 1G/second router, a wi-fi hot spot and possibly an outside antenna for the hot spot if needed. The town halls can also have an internal wired network if wanted. It was also suggested that the town halls add video conferencing equipment so residents can utilize it.

Construction update: 12 of the initial 15 sites are connected.

Discuss proposal from Bug Tussel for Taylor County project: Bug Tussel presented a revised proposal to the committee, with the additional towers as requested. They prefer 300-foot guy towers. The tower has a 180-foot radius with the guy wires. A question was raised, if they could put shorter towers near the airport and yes, it is a possibility. The committee will review the new proposal with Corporation Counsel. Olson will work with Courtney on the resolutions for the next Broadband Committee meeting and County Board session. Olson is also in touch with WanRack for collaboration and will keep us updated. Olson stated a timeline for connecting people to their network would be mid to late 2023.

Update/approve partnership with Ntera, Town of Aurora and Taylor County: Bub stated Ntera has now submitted an agreement with the Town of Aurora. Motion by Thums, seconded by Zenner to approve the lease agreement. Motion carried. The agreement was given to Earl Hinkel, Town Chairman, and it will be presented to the Aurora Town Board for approval.

Next round of grant applications: There was discussion about needing community letters of support to submit with our grant applications. Thums suggested running an ad in the Star News,

asking residents to submit letters. Josh Klingbeil, Deputy Director of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, stated that the libraries may be able to help with this, we just need to reach out to them. Grant applications are due March 17th.

Other items for the Committee: Bub stated he and Gene are working with Corporation Counsel on a document to send to WanRack asking for their date of completion.

Set next meeting date: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Ceaglske, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Andria Farrand
County Clerk

TAYLOR COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE

January 4, 2022

County Board Room, Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Michael Bub called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Michael Bub and Rollie Thums.

Members Present via Zoom: Chuck Zenner, Gene Knoll, Michelle Grimm, James Stokes and Melissa Lind.

Members Absent: Mike Schaefer and Ken Ceaglske.

Other Attendees: Earl Hinkel, Butch Frischmann, Ray Sackmann, Larry Brandl and Andria Farrand.

Other attendees via Zoom: Russell Berg, Mitchel Olson of Bug Tussel, Blake Mayfield-WANRack, Steve Deml, Jane De Staercke, Candice Grunseth, Joe Svejda, Bob Judnic, Josh Klingbeil, Stan Schmidt.

Approve the agenda: Motion by Thums, seconded by Zenner, to approve the agenda with 13 items. Motion carried.

Approve the minutes of the December 17, 2021 meeting: Motion by Thums, seconded by Stokes, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Dennis Hinderliter arrived at 9:35 a.m.

Update on the equipment ordered for connections in County facilities: Lind stated that all equipment is on order and the total is about \$9000.00 less than the approved amount of \$375,000.00.

ISP-Charter-Do we need to do anything to the current contract: Berg stated, per a conversation with Chris Crawford of Charter, our current contract can stay as it is until the renewal in 2023. When the county's fiber is available, we contact them to connect.

Construction update: There have been several issues with damage in the Town of Roosevelt and it was suggested we talk to Courtney about drafting a contract amendment stating that our final payment won't be made until all is resolved, and also add a completion date. Bub will talk to Courtney.

Discuss proposal from Bug Tussel for Taylor County project: There are concerns from several regarding the proposed coverage in the southeast corner of the county, the Aurora area and the Lake Esadore area. Mitch of Bug Tussel stated there is flexibility where the towers go, and the cost is \$250,000.00-\$300,000.00 per tower. There are several municipalities interested in using their ARPA money to construct towers and Bug Tussel will reach out to them. Bub asked Bug Tussel to add the three additional towers; Little Black, Hammel and Aurora and re-submit their proposal.

Update on Ntera and town of Aurora and Gilman: Bub stated he sent a letter to Ntera to finalize the agreement, or we need to move on.

Next round of grant applications: LIT Communities and WANRack are looking for Taylor County to do another study before they apply for PSC grants. After much discussion, it was agreed that Taylor County will not finance the study for LIT Communities. Bub will advise Blake.

Review status of partnership with Towns and Villages for towers: Bug Tussel to take the lead on this and find out who is interested.

Other items for the Committee: Hinderliter stated the school is applying for an ECF grant, should they use Bug Tussel or WANRack? Bub suggested he email Bug Tussel to discuss.

Set next meeting date: The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 8th at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Zenner, seconded by Stokes, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Andria Farrand
County Clerk