

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Broadband Committee •

Thursday, February 6, 2020

4:00 P.M.

Courthouse - Room #3312

721 Oxford Avenue • Eau Claire, WI

Members: Joseph Malual, Lynn Thompson, Joe Alf, Donald Mowry, Scott Hoffman, Tim Laubach

Staff: Rodney J. Eslinger – Director of Planning and Development, Frank Draxler – Administrative Operations Manager, Dave Hayden – Director of Information Systems

Others Present: Buck Webb, TriCounty Telecom (TCC), and Jim Kusilek, 24/7 Telcom, Mike Hill, Charter Communication, Troy Schulner, Michael Albertson, Martin Voss

Press: Ryan Patterson, Leader Telegram

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chairperson Mowry call to order the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and he confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person)

Troy Schulner, Town of Drammen resident, attended to learn more about the expansion of Broadband in the county.

Michael Alberston, Town of Drammen resident, indicated he has poor broadband service at his residence and would like to see it improved so it would allow him to telecommute from home.

Mike Hill, Charter Communication, looking to partner to grow broadband in the county and looking possibly to partner in a future grant application.

Martin Voss, Town of Brunswick resident, shared his concerns about the lack of broadband services to his property.

3. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes from January 16, 2020 – **Discussion/Action**

Scott Hoffman motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Joe Alf seconded the motion; all in favor.

4. Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(e) for the purpose of discussing and sharing proprietary information from an outside agency in regard to research and potential revenue of that agency.

Lynn Thompson motioned to go into closed session, Scott Hoffman seconded the motion; all in favor.

Lynn Thompson motioned to go out of closed session, Tim Laubach seconded the motion; all in favor.

5. Ordinance 19-20/079 - Create Chapter 12.74; relating to approval of broadband network projects – **Discussion**
Rodney Eslinger presented the ordinance and fact sheet to the committee and provided a brief summary of its intent.

Lynn Thompson motioned to recommended approval of the ordinance, Tim Laubach seconded the motion: all in favor.

6. Legislative Status Update – **Discussion**

Donald Mowry gave a brief update of the broadband bills that Senator Jeff Smith recently introduced.

7. Broadband Telecommuter Resolutions Update - **Discussion**

Mr. Eslinger indicated he spoke with Mark Zuber who is working with the Town Clerks regarding the Broadband Telecommuter Resolutions. Mr. Eslinger said that 5 of the 13 town boards (Brunswick, Bridge Creek, Drammen, Pleasant Valley, Seymour) have adopted Broadband Telecommuter Resolutions to date.

8. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**

The next meeting will be February 20, 2020.

9. Adjourn

Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney J. Eslinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' and 'E'.

Rodney J. Eslinger
Director of Planning and Development