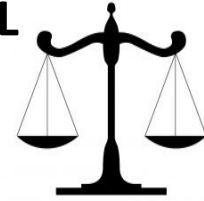




## OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
721 OXFORD AVE., SUITE 3520  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

PH: (715) 839-4836 Fax: (715) 839-6243



**ASSISTANT  
CORPORATION COUNSEL**

*Sharon G. McIlquham  
Richard A. Eaton  
Charles R. Ellefsen, III*

**CORPORATION COUNSEL**

*Timothy J. Sullivan*

December 04, 2020

### **RE: Fact Sheet 20-21.100. Broadband & SpaceX**

In 2019 the County Board authorized the creation of a county wide Broadband Committee to investigate ways to improve broadband services to the rural areas of Eau Claire County.

The Broadband Committee in cooperation with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has identified a 12-month pilot project with SpaceX corporation to provide highspeed satellite services to the rural areas near the City of Augusta (See the attached map). This pilot project would provide internet services to 50 users/households. Because this is a pilot project SpaceX is requiring that there be an "Angel" account that would be responsible for the payment of the fees during the 12-month period. It is anticipated that after the end of the 12-month period, and if successful that SpaceX would expand it service not only in Eau Claire County but also in Wisconsin and provide service directly to the users.

The overall cost of the project is approximately \$85,000. The first \$25,000 of the cost is for purchasing the equipment that would be provided to the users/households chosen to participate in the agreement. WEDC has indicated to Eau Claire County that they have a grant program that would pay approximately \$25,000 for a broadband project such as this to be used for the purchase of equipment for the users/households chosen to participate. Eau Claire County would need to apply for the grant and be approved by WEDC to receive this funding.

The remaining \$60,000 is the cost to provide highspeed internet service to the 50 users during the 12-month period. It works out to be approximately \$100 per month, per user. WEDC has indicated to Eau Claire County that if we were to move forward with this project and they provide grant funding that they would like to see the county seek contributions from entities and/or persons in the community, to make this a community based project as opposed to just a county project. It is believed that individuals, business, or entities that may be or have employees located within the pilot area may have an interest in contributing towards providing high speed internet service for this pilot project.

This resolution authorizes the County through the Broadband Committee to move forward with this project, to apply for the grant from the WEDC and to determine the 50 users who participate in the pilot project and to develop and agreement for those users.

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AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO PROCEED WITH A PROJECT TO PROVIDE BROADBAND SERVICES TO A RURAL AREA NEAR THE CITY OF AUGUSTA, AND TO APPLY FOR GRANT FROM THE WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO HELP PAY FOR THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board created a Broadband Committee in 2019 to investigate and find ways to improve broadband and high-speed internet service to the rural areas of Eau Claire County; and

WHEREAS, the Broadband Committee, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), has identified a pilot project operated by SpaceX to provide high-speed satellite internet service in a rural area of Eau Claire County near the City of Augusta; and

WHEREAS, the pilot project offered by SpaceX, known as “Starlink Beta Enterprise,” initially would be for 50 users or households for 12 months. The pilot project would require payment of approximately \$85,000.00, \$25,000.00 of which would be to purchase the equipment to be used by the 50 users/households, and the remaining \$60,000.00 for the satellite internet service provided by SpaceX; and

WHEREAS, the agreement with SpaceX calls for a payment of approximately \$60,000.00 for service to the 50 users in the pilot project, which is equivalent to approximately \$100.00 per month per user; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that if the pilot project is successful that at the end of the 12 months, SpaceX would continue to provide service directly to the user/households and other interested customers in this area and possibly expand their service to other rural areas in Eau Claire County and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, if Eau Claire County enters into the agreement with SpaceX, it would be ultimately responsible for the payment of the entire cost of the program to SpaceX. However, WEDC has a grant program that would pay approximately \$25,000.00 for a broadband project such as this to be used to purchase the equipment for those households selected to receive the service. Eau Claire County, through its Broadband Committee, would need to apply for and be awarded the grant; and

WHEREAS, the WEDC has indicated that it would require community involvement in the funding of the service portion of the agreement as part of any grant. It would like to see contributions to the cost of the monthly service provided by SpaceX from individuals and entities located in Eau Claire County to develop community interest in the expansion of broadband service to rural areas; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that individuals, businesses who have employees located within the affected areas, and other entities public and private may be interested in contributing to this pilot project to allow individuals to work remotely and to promote the development of broadband/highspeed internet service in rural areas of Eau Claire County; and

1 WHEREAS, it would be the intent and the responsibility of the Broadband Committee,  
2 consistent with the requirement of WEDC to have community involvement in the pilot project, to  
3 seek contributions from public and private entities and individuals to pay for all or part of the  
4 cost of service under the SpaceX agreement; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, if the Broadband Committee cannot raise all the funds necessary through  
7 contributions, then Eau Claire County would be responsible for the difference, up to the full  
8 amount of approximately \$60,000.00, for service under the contract.

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10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Eau Claire County is committed to the  
11 development of broadband service to the underserved rural areas of Eau Claire County, and sees  
12 this pilot project as a method of providing high-speed internet service to areas in the county  
13 which do not have access to high-speed internet service. The County Board authorizes Eau  
14 Claire County, through the Broadband Committee, to move forward with the above-mentioned  
15 pilot project with SpaceX, contingent upon the application for and the award of a grant to Eau  
16 Claire County from the WEDC for approximately \$25,000.00 for the purchase of the equipment  
17 needed by the users under the SpaceX agreement; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, consistent with the requirements of the WEDC grant, the  
20 Broadband Committee is directed to seek contributions from the community to help fund the  
21 service portion of the pilot project. Eau Claire County seeks to limit its contribution to \_\_\_% of  
22 the approximate total of \$60,000.00. As part of this requirement, the Broadband Committee  
23 should work with the Corporation Counsel to develop an agreement to be used with those entities  
24 and individuals that choose to contribute to the pilot project, and to develop criteria for selecting  
25 the individuals or entities that will be chosen to participate in the pilot program.

26  
27 I hereby certify that the foregoing  
28 correctly represents the action of the  
29 Committee on Administration on  
30 December \_\_\_, 2020 by a vote  
31 of \_\_\_ for, and \_\_\_ against.

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34 \_\_\_\_\_  
35 Nick Smiar, Chair  
36 Committee on Administration

37 TSJ/ljl