



ADDENDUM
Eau Claire County
Committee on Administration
Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 1454 79 6141

Meeting Link:

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m086f42f58b247c3271ffe20789a06532>

Password: mmJdNqjt797

For those wishing to make public comment, you can submit your request to speak and/or written comment to Samantha Kraegenbrink at samantha.kraegenbrink@co.eau-claire.wi.us at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. File No. 21-22/034: Resolution designating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be used by the Broadband Committee for the purpose of matching funds by local units of Government for broadband expansion – **Discussion/Action**

Prepared by: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator

cc: Media 1:35 p.m. 7/8/2021

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-6945 (FAX) 839-1669 or (TDD) 839-4735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 21-22/034

DESIGNATING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS TO BE USED BY THE BROADBAND COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MATCHING FUNDS BY LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION

Fiscal Impact: \$2.8 million ARPA Funds

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) authorizes the use of federal funds for certain categories including infrastructure improvement including the expansion of broadband services to underserved areas of the country.

This resolution is part of a package. The first resolution (21-22/033) creates a budget amendment designating 2.8 million dollars for broadband expansion in Eau Claire County. This resolution authorizes the Broadband Committee to administer the 2.8 million dollars for matching grants to local units of government for the purpose of broadband expansion.

The figure of 2.8 million was derived from the total amount of ARPA funding that has been designated to all the Towns in Eau Claire County. It is anticipated that some of the Towns will be spending all their ARPA funds for broadband expansion and will need grants from both the County and the State to fully implement broadband expansion.

This resolution requires the Broadband Committee to develop an application process, grant criteria, and to monitor the expenditure of funds and report to the County Board on the expenditure of funds.

Timothy J. Sullivan
Corporation Counsel

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3 DESIGNATING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS TO BE USED BY THE
4 BROADBAND COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MATCHING FUNDS BY LOCAL
5 UNITS OF GOVERNMENT FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION
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7 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is scheduled to receive a total of approximately
8 \$20,295,000 from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
9 (“ARPA”). Payment is made in two installments with the first installment having already been
10 made to Eau Claire County; and
11

12 WHEREAS, among other things, one of the permitted uses of ARPA funds is investment
13 into Broadband infrastructure, that would help to expansion of broadband services to the rural
14 areas of Eau Claire County; and
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16 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has already created a Broadband Committee that is
17 charged with the mission of exploring ways to expand broadband services to the residents in
18 rural areas of Eau Claire County that are not currently served by broadband services; and
19

20 WHEREAS, with the COVID-19 pandemic the lack of service through Eau Claire
21 County and the need for broadband service in underserved areas has become more apparent as
22 many people in those areas were not able to connect to work, school or healthcare services
23 through the internet; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the local units of government are also receiving ARPA funds which they
26 can use for infrastructure purposes including the expansion of broadband into their jurisdictions,
27 and they are able to apply for specific grants from the state government to be used for the
28 expansion of broadband service; and
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30 WHEREAS, it is estimated that the total amount of ARPA funds that will be received by
31 all the towns within Eau Claire County is approximately Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand
32 dollars (\$2,800,000.); and
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34 WHEREAS, the County Broadband Committee has already established the network and
35 infrastructure necessary to work on projects to expand broadband access in Eau Claire County,
36 such as the recent collaboration with Starlink that created a pilot project to bring satellite-based
37 internet service to portions of southeastern Eau Claire County. The Broadband Committee is
38 ready to work with local units of government to expand broadband service; and
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40 WHEREAS, local units of government are moving forward with broadband projects and
41 would otherwise request ARPA funds from Eau Claire County for their broadband project but
42 are not able to do so until the County has a means of distributing the funds.
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44 THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors
45 designates Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand (\$2,800,000.) of the funding received through
46 the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to be used as matching funds in combination with ARPA
47 funds from local units of government for the expansion of broadband service within Eau Claire
48 County.
49

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the funds shall be administered by the Eau Claire
2 County Broadband Committee that will develop procedures and criteria to: receive applications,
3 to evaluate the applications, distribute the funds and to oversee the use of the funds to ensure
4 their use for broadband projects, and submit quarterly reports on the distribution and use of the
5 funds to the County Board.
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8

9 I hereby certify that the foregoing
10 Correctly represents the action of the
11 Committee on Administration on
12 July ____, 2021, by a vote of ____ for, and ____
13 against.
14

15 _____
16 Nick Smiar, Chair
17 Committee on Administration
18
19

20 TS/yk