

DESIGNATING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS TO BE USED BY THE BROADBAND COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF BROADBAND EXPANSION AND FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OTHER BROADBAND PROJECTS DEEMED TO FURTHER THE BROADBAND COMMITTEE'S GOAL OF SUPPORTING HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACROSS EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has already created a Broadband Committee that is charged with the mission of exploring ways to expand broadband services to the residents in rural areas of Eau Claire County that are not currently served by broadband services; and

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

WHEREAS, through collaboration and possible public/private partnerships projects could include assisting with providing broadband access in the Town of Clear Creek, covering 17 locations, and providing access in the Village of Fairchild, where there is potential to serve three anchor institutions (Fairchild Library, Village Community Center, and the Fire Protection Building); and

WHEREAS, the Broadband Committee will continue to identify other projects where remaining funding can be used for infrastructure purposes including the expansion of broadband throughout Eau Claire County and to explore applying for specific grants from the state government to be used for the expansion of broadband service; and

WHEREAS, these newly identified projects may be partially funded with remaining ARPA funds already allocated to the Broadband Committee in File 21-22/034, for use in the expansion of broadband access throughout Eau Claire County.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Eau Claire County Broadband Committee to continue to use the already allocated ARPA funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to be used through collaboration and possible public/private partnerships could include assisting with providing broadband access in the Town of Clear Creek, covering 17 locations, and providing access in the Village of Fairchild, where there is potential to serve three anchor institutions (Fairchild Library, Village Community Center, and the Fire Protection Building); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Broadband Committee will continue to identify other projects where remaining funding can be used for infrastructure purposes including the expansion of broadband throughout Eau Claire County and to explore applying for specific grants from the state government to be used for the expansion of broadband service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these newly identified projects would be partially funded with remaining ARPA funds already allocated to the Broadband Committee in File 21-22/034, for use in the expansion of broadband access throughout Eau Claire County.

ADOPTED: January 17, 2023

Sue McDonald
County Clerk