

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2023

*CONFERENCE ROOM 302 – ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, COUNTY COMPLEX
255 CLAY STREET, LAPEER, MI 48446*

Chairman William Hamilton called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 a.m. in the Conference Room 302 in the Administration Office.

Members Present: Commissioners William Hamilton, Tom Kohlman, and Truman Mast; Moses Sanzo, Administrator/Controller; Jackie Arnold, CFO; and Joe Suma, Drain Commissioner.

Others: Doreen Clark, Administration Office Manager; *Sam Moore, Lapeer Development Corporation (via Zoom).

AGENDA

Motion by Kohlman, supported by Mast, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

The minutes from the September 28, 2023 were reviewed.

Motion by Kohlman, supported by Mast, to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2023 Broadband Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT BROADBAND RESOLUTION

The draft Broadband Resolution as was discussed at the last meeting was reviewed and discussion followed. Commissioner Mast expressed that he agrees that it is essential but does not feel this is something that government should be providing to the public.

Motion by Mast, supported by Sanzo, to recommend to the Full Board to adopt the attached revised draft Resolution in support Broadband expansion in Lapeer County. Motion carried.

ISP RFI

Lengthy questions and discussion followed regarding the proposed RFI that was drafted to see if we can identify any ISP partners on the broadband/Middle Mile project. Commissioner Mast stated that he is in favor of finding out if there's any interest for partners now that we have the report back from EntryPoint. Ms. Schroeder reported that they are seeing the number of new vendors requesting permits for similar services and there are at least 10 new providers getting active permits. Further discussion followed.

Motion by Kohlman, supported by Suma, to recommend to the Full Board to authorize the release of an RFI (Request for Information) to potential ISP providers (internet service providers) in order to determine interest in the proposed broadband project. Motion carried unanimously.

DIG ONCE POLICY

Discussion was held regarding the need to look into having a Dig Once Policy for the County to avoid having the same roads or areas dug up by multiple service providers. Lengthy questions and discussion followed regarding the need for better collaboration for utility and conduit installation. Mr. Sanzo reported that he has a few sample policies that are quite extensive and are being challenged legally. He also recommended a legal review of any draft policy once proposed. Mr. Sanzo reported that he is still working on a more simplified version geared towards communication lines so they all use one dedicated conduit.

Motion by Kohlman, supported by Mast, that the Administrator continue to prepare a draft Dig Once Policy and bring it back to the next Broadband Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mast, supported by Kohlman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. 11:50 a.m.

William Hamilton, Chairman
Lapeer County Broadband Committee

Minutes prepared by: Doreen Clark, Office Manager