

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023
4:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Brian Droscha, Barbara Rogers, Frank Holmes, Jacob Toomey, Brandon Haskell, Mark Mudry and Scott Hansen

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Jim Mott; Eric Daley, Nathan Nighbert, Eli Gregg-ACD.net, and John Fuentes

The January 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Droscha.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

There were no changes to the agenda.


Technology Services Director, Eric Daley, provided an overview of the Broadband project and the creation of the Broadband Action Team. The project began through a study conducted by Connected Nation to identify unserved and underserved areas of the County. Based on that identification Requests for Proposal were distributed in September 2022, and six internet service providers responded to the request. Team members scored the proposals individually based on the criteria identified in the RFP and interviewed four ISPs. ACD.net was selected to develop a partnership agreement to pursue grant funding through an upcoming Realizing Opportunities with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) program. The ROBIN grant has not been released by the State of Michigan as of this meeting.

Eli Gregg, ACD.net, provided a description of the ACD.net organization and an update on the project with respect to the grant application process. Although the ROBIN grant has not been released, it was anticipated to be this week. Once released, application will be completed and the engineering process will begin to design the fiber to the included areas of the proposal. This would be considered stage one of providing internet service to every household in the County. There will be another funding source through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program once the ROBIN grant has been fully expensed. Mr. Gregg stated that he personally reached out to the Michigan High Speed Internet Office (MIHI) to verify scoring criteria for the ROBIN grant. Mr. Gregg indicated that the Broad Band Action Team's decision to move forward with 3 of the 7 proposed bid zones seemed favorable in the ROBIN application scoring process. This changes the financial contribution ratio of local/internet service provider to grant dollar seeking to a 2:1 ratio. Mr. Gregg stated that in his communication with the MIHI office that this should be considered favorable in the ROBIN grant application scoring criteria. Mr. Gregg also indicated that the BEAD program can be used to attempt fund addresses identified in the remaining 4 of 7 zones identified in the ACD.net proposal. Mr. Gregg anticipates that this should score higher

in any future BEAD application as it is an attempt to complete a current and ongoing broadband project in Eaton County.

Commissioner Haskell moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 p.m. Commissioner Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Information Technology and Communication Committee will be held February 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Room in the Eaton County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte MI 48813.



Brian Droscha, Chairperson