

**Telecommunications Committee Meeting – February 27, 2017**

Posted February 24, 2017 at 4 p.m. at the Town of Russell Garage, Town Clerk’s Office and Town website. Notices sent via e-mail to the Ashland Daily Press and Bayfield County Journal.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Mark Bugher via telephone at 8:02 a.m. at the Town of Russell Garage. Roll call was taken as follows; present Supervisor Larry Meierotto and committee member Mike Cariveau. Clerk/Treasurer David L. Good was also present. Theron Rutna representing the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of the agenda – A motion was made by Cariveau and seconded by Meierotto to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT – No members of the public were present and no public input was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Meierotto and seconded by Cariveau to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2017 meeting. The motion carried.

Report from the Tribe on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives – Rutna reported on Tribe discussions with First Net. The Tribe’s proposed fiber network between Tribal Government Offices and facilities was discussed. The need for expanded cellular services to currently unserved or underserved areas of the reservation discussed. The Town is invited to attend the next Tribal meeting with FCC on March 30, 2017 from 9 a.m. to noon at Legendary Waters Convention Center. Meierotto and Cariveau will attend.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion Regarding Contact with Communications Companies Providing Telecommunications Services in the Town of Russell – Bugher has reached out to Verizon and has had an initial contact. However, he has not heard back from them. He will continue efforts to contact Verizon. Bugher will be in contacted with Norvado following this meeting.

Discussion regarding property owner survey on cellular/internet services – Good distributed a final report on surveys received. We have 93 surveys returned or an approximate 40% return. Discussion followed that we agreed to not share customer specific data so committee members were reminded to not share the detailed survey information outside of our internal use. Bugher will report on the survey findings to the Town Board on March 14, 2017.

Status of proposed design of CenturyTel broadband expansion in the 779 exchange – Cariveau reported that no update was available at this time.

Discussion regarding the “Strategic Plan” – The committee made no changes to the draft discussed at the January meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Report on potential access to existing tower sites in Bayfield County – It was agreed to utilize County Towers for cellular if they could meet our needs.

Report on contact with Ericsson – Cariveau had no update at this time and will report at the April Committee meeting.

Status of preparing 3-D signal strength patterns off existing towers near the Town of Russell – Cariveau is continuing to work on this and will provide an update at the April Committee meeting.

Next Steps and Assignments – Cariveau and Meierotto will report on the March 30 meeting they will be attending.

The next Telecommunications Committee Meeting – It was agreed to meet on at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017 at the Town Garage. Bugher will attend by telephone.

A motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. was made by Cariveau and seconded by Meierotto. The motion carried.

The minutes respectfully submitted by:

David L. Good – Clerk/Treasurer