

Telecommunications Committee Meeting – July 6, 2017

Posted July 3, 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.

The meeting was called to order by Town of Russell Committee Chairman Mark Bugher, Town of Russell Supervisor at 8:00 a.m. at the Town of Russell Garage. Roll call was taken as follows; present Town of Russell Supervisor Larry Meierotto, Town of Russell committee member Mike Cariveau, , Town of Bayfield Chairman Tom Gordon, Town of Bayfield committee member Ron Haupt, Theron Rutna, Red Cliff Tribe Scottie Sandstrom, Bayfield County Economic Development, and Town of Russell Clerk/Treasurer David L. Good was also present. Mayor of Bayfield, Gordon Ringberg and David Eades representing the Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau were excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A motion was made by Cariveau and seconded by Meierotto to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting. The motion carried.

Report from the Town of Russell on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives – Bugher reported the Town has been certified by the WI PSC as a Broadband Forward Community. The Town did file for a Broadband Expansion Grant from the WI PSC. Mark Scribner, CenturyLing is not able to attend this meeting but stated no activity is planned for the 779 exchange in 2017 but may occur in 2018. Extensive discussion was held regarding the conflicted information various entities have been receiving from CenturyLink, Haupt, Sandstrom, shared information on their discussions with CenturyLink. In the end, no one really had any definitive information on CenturyLink plans.

Report from the Tribe on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives – Rutna updated everyone on the Red Cliff fiber project. He also provided information on the FirstNet effort and encouraged everyone to provide letters to the Governor asking him to support FirstNet verses the State doing something on their own. He stated he will send a sample letter to those in terested in responding.

Report from the Town of Bayfield on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives – Haupt reported the Town of Bayfield Cellular and Broadband Service Survey was mailed out two weeks ago. They are in discussion with Norvado and CenturyLink about extending broadband service to their Business Park located on County Highway J. Gordon reported that he talked with Wisconsin Towns Association regarding limits or laws governing a Town starting a coop telco company. Their attorney stated they were not aware of any restrictions.

Report from City of Bayfield on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives –No report.

Report from Bayfield Chamber and Visitors Bureau on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives – No report.
Report.

Report from Bayfield County Economic Development on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives – Scottie Sandstrom reported on the County effort with Verizon on the tower in the City of Washburn.

NEW BUSINESS

Review and discuss Town of Russell/Waypoint Experts LLC WI PSC Grant proposal – Cariveau provided a detailed overview of the design and operation for the proposal for the Town of Russell submitted for grant funding from the WI PSC.

OLD BUSINESS

Items for next meeting:

1. Invite Mark Scribner, CenturyLink for an update on their plans.
2. Update on State funding for broadband initiatives.
3. Discuss possible conference call on Three Rivers Proposal (Sonic Net).
4. Status of Town of Russell grant request.
5. Sandstrom asked if Cariveau would provide an update on the Town of Russell plans at the next Bayfield County Economic Development Committee meeting on August 7.

The next Telecommunications Committee Meeting – It was agreed to meet on at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017 at the Town Garage.

A motion to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. was made by Cariveau and seconded by Meierotto. The motion carried.

The minutes respectfully submitted by:

David L. Good – Clerk/Treasurer