

# Town of Russell

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*Paul "Rocky" Tribovich*  
Chair

*Judy Meierotto*  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

*Dave Good*  
Clerk/Treasurer

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**8:00 a.m. – Monday, August 7, 2017**

**Town Garage - 35900 State Highway 13**

Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the Town Clerk at 715 779-5338, at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time, so appropriate arrangements can be made.

1. Call to order and roll call.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the agenda.
4. Set Agenda for Public Input now or at the end of the agenda (3-minute limit per person-15 minutes maximum).
5. Approval of the minutes of the July 6, 2017, 2017 and July 19, 2017 Telecommunications Committee meetings\*\*\*\*.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

6. Discussion regarding CenturyLink position on telecommunications plans for Town of Russell and the Bayfield Peninsula.
7. Update of status of WI PSC Broadband Grant application.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

8. Report from Town of Russell on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives.
9. Report from Red Cliff Tribe on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives.
10. Report from Town of Bayfield on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives.
11. Report from City of Bayfield on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives.
12. Report by Bayfield Chamber & Visitors Bureau on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives.
13. Report by Bayfield County Economic Development on current activities regarding cellular and broadband initiatives.
14. Items for next meeting.
15. Future initiatives of the Committee and meeting frequency.
16. Next meeting date, time and location.
17. Adjourn.

The Committee reserves the right to take action on any agenda item. \*\*\*\* indicates items attached. A quorum of the Town Board may be present but no business will be conducted.

Posted July 31, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Revised and reposted Thursday, August 3, 2017.

Dave Good–Clerk/Treasurer

**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

**Telecommunications Committee Meeting – July 19, 2017**

Posted July 17, 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, Theron Rutna, Red Cliff Tribe, Bayfield Mayor Gordon Ringberg, David Eades, Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau, Lance Twombly and Kelly Garrison representing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and Town of Russell Clerk/Treasurer David L. Good 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 as presented. The motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT – No input was offered.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion with Angie Dickison, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, regarding issues relating to cellular and broadband services on the Bayfield Peninsula – Dickison presented the Town of Russell a citation from Governor Walker recognizing the Town as a Broadband Forward Community. Discussion was held regarding the efforts of the communities of the Bayfield Peninsula in working to address the needs of citizens, local emergency service personnel, governments and businesses for broadband and cellular services. Dickison updated the committee and meeting attendees on the State's efforts to address the needs for improved broadband services.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Items for next meeting: Nothing additional from the July 6, 2017 meeting.

The next Telecommunications Committee Meeting – It was agreed to meet on at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017 at the Town Garage.

A motion to adjourn at 8:50 a.m. was made by Cariveau and seconded by Meierotto. The motion carried.

Those present gathered outside for a photograph of the presentation of the Broadband Forward Community citation and a news release was issued.

The minutes respectfully submitted by:

David L. Good – Clerk/Treasurer