

## Broadband Action Group

November 3, 2022

### Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm by Chair Marsman.

Present: In addition to Chair Marsman, members Siler, Armstrong, Bursma, Williams, Beltman, Storey; Project Manager Dunham; county staff Sarro, Sedore.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Updates: Administrator Sarro distributed a draft resolution for later consideration

Updates: Project Manager Dunham:

- Reviewed information on the ROBIN grant situation. Grant applications will be accepted starting in week one Jan. 2023. She reported on conversation with Eric Frederick, head of MiHI office on the schedule of releasing funds
- She assisted Saugatuck city in the installation of a new AT&T cell site at Mt. Baldhead.

Discussion:

RFP results: Dunham introduced discussion on the RFP response and assessments. Received 11 proposals which were evaluated by team of Marsman, Bursma, Kotas, county staff Steve Sedore, Lorna Nenciarini, and Jill Dunham. Valdis Kalnins guided the evaluation process. The evaluation team selected six providers for interviews. After the interview, three provides were dropped from consideration because they did not bid on the entire county. Because Comcast had the highest installation cost and highest monthly subscriber cost, it was eliminated from further consideration. The evaluation team recommended 123NET for awarding the county's ARPA funds in the amount of \$17,715,214.51 that will be matched with a like amount from the company. They will start construction when the project is fully funded, hopefully with the ROBIN grant from the State of Michigan; design work is likely to start prior to grant approval.

Kotas remarked that awarding 123NET the recommendation would put Allegan County in a lead position to winning Robin funds from the state. The grant funding will make eligibility available to residences that do not have 100 Mb downlink speed.

Siler thanked the evaluation time for the time and attention doing the evaluation. He asked if 123NET doesn't get the Robin funding, what happens. Dunham responded it might return to another RFP in order to not jeopardize losing the county's ARPA funds. The 123NET proposal would offer access to 12,000 homes.

Marsman thanked the members of the evaluation team and the providers. Discussion ensued on the meeting schedule with the group.

Motion to approve Resolution #1062-22 by Marsman, seconded by Bursma. Roll call: Armstrong, Kotas, Siler, Marsman, Williams, Bursma, Beltman and Storey YES. NO; none

Jeff Moerschell of 123NET, Government Accounts, addressed the body during public participation.

Steve Schulz of Bloomingdale Communications gave an update. Company submitted a ReConnect round 4 application including two areas in Lee Township. Total project is a \$15 million. A large portion of the project is “shovel ready”. Have resolution with USDA Rural Utility Service (RUS) section to get project back underway in Trowbridge and Cheshire Townships.

Beltman moves to adjourn, Armstrong seconded. Passed by voice vote at 4:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Storey