

Public Utility Service
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 @ 1:00 PM
Chambers/ Zoom

MINUTES

1:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

Committee Members Present: Joe Magliocca, Melissa During, Greg Reuter, and Eve Ann Schwartz.

Absent: John Pinard

Others Present: Cindy Edick (Zoom), Scott Ingmire, Samantha Field, Melissa Martel Felton, Andy Lukasiewicz (Zoom), Paul Lutwak, Luanne Randall, Mark Scimone, and Gwen Williamson.

Motion by greg reuter to approve March 25 2022 MCPLUS minutes. Second by Eve Ann Schwartz. The motion was Passed.

Absent: Pinard

- MCPLUS Mar 25 2022

Current Business

1. Broadband ReConnect Grant-Update

Scott Ingmire updated the Committee on the ReConnect Broadband Grant. The County does not fit the usual profile for USDA grant processing. Andy was able to provide statements from Empire that were needed, and the Finance Department is working on the development agreement. Andy added that progress is being made and Bob Frye is instrumental in getting us through this process. This is new to the USDA as far as working with a county, and we are fortunate that Yates County was the first to go through the process.

Resolutions:

1. Rural Broadband Budget Mod assume from fund balance 5 10 22

Cindy Edick reviewed resolution from top to bottom and answered questions about the unexpended fund balance for 2021 and 2022 (estimated). She commented that there should be no issue front-loading these funds. It was also noted that the sales tax for the first quarter is ahead of last year by 12.6%. Motion by Eve Ann Schwartz to authorize the modification of the 2022 adopted budget. Second by greg reuter. The motion was Passed.

Absent: Pinard

2. Awarding a Contract for Broadband Network Operation to Empire Long Distance

There was much discussion regarding the specific terms of the agreement. The agreement is not yet complete. Andy reviewed Empire's proposed terms. The resolution was tabled until certain items can be clarified. Following discussion Andy will follow up on three items that need clarification: specifics on who will be responsible for equipment replacement, specific language related to negotiation at the end of contract term, and to define STN Empire operating agreement. This information will be provided to the committee and the resolution will be voted on in time for the upcoming board meeting if possible. Ingmire noted that the USDA will need to review the draft agreement.

Preferred Agenda

It was the consensus of the Committee to allow any eligible resolutions from today's meeting to be added to the preferred agenda. All resolutions were voted on and approved by the Committee.

Other Committee Business

There was no new business.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled MCPLUS meeting will be May 26, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. in the Supervisors' Chambers.

Adjourn

Motion by Eve Ann Schwartz to adjourn. Second by Melissa During. The motion was Passed.

Absent: Pinard

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR BROADBAND NETWORK OPERATION TO
EMPIRE LONG DISTANCE**

WHEREAS, Madison County was recently awarded a \$10,156,160 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Utilities Service ReConnect Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds are to provide reliable and affordable high speed internet to underserved rural areas of Madison County as defined by the USDA; and

WHEREAS, Empire Long Distance was a partner in our ReConnect application and has continued to work with Madison County through the initial stages of the grant process; and

WHEREAS, Madison County has negotiated a long term operation agreement with Empire Long Distance that will provide for revenue sharing and system operation for a minimum of 10 years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a contract with Empire Long Distance, in substantially the same form as the copy now on file with the Clerk.

Dated: May 10, 2022

John Pinard, Chairman
Madison County Public Utility Service
Committee