**Broadband Action Workgroup**

June 29, 2023 – Minutes

**Call to order:** Vice Chair Kotas @ 4:02pm.

Members present: Pam Armstrong, Ted Siler, Austin Marsman, Gerry Williams, Penny Bursma

Member joined via zoom: Cooper and Beltman

Others Present: Project Mgr. Dunham, Administrator Sarro.

**Administrator** – No updates

**Project Manager:** County/123Net grant application was part of the application package approved for undetermined funding by the Department of Labor and Opportunity and MIHI. Verification period of 45 days has commenced. Highest score was 237.5. MEC was 237.4. Our proposal was third highest score. Our proposal was 500 pages; mostly consisting of support messages from local governments, anchor institutions and residents. Relating MIHI information, our project as third highest will likely be fully funded. 123Net is planning to start construction in mid-August. Pre-announcement of final grant award, 123Net plans to connect Hopkins homes to coincide with grant announcement.

Dunham reported that she participated in a video series with 123Net. She also reported that she led five community meetings; attendance was spotty.

Allegan County website broadband page has “check my address” button to check whom is served. Dunham also said she is working with existing cable companies where people are listed as being served but are not. Some may need help. If people don’t have service or are not listed as being in a specific service area, respondents will be directed to email Dunham. Commissioner Beltman suggested purchasing advertising space for encouraging Allegan residents to check their addresses to determine if they have service or projected service. Dunham suggested it be placed after the final award is announced.

**Affordable Connectivity Program** – Dunham was asked to get any details on the state’s program. Siler said BPW is waiting for assurance money will continue into the future. Money given to individuals seeking will be determined by others, not the providers.

**Ribbon Cutting –** The board discussed holding a ribbon cutting ceremony with 123Net when the grant announcement occurs. More details will be coming.

123Net is looking for space in the county for a data center and a customer contact center.

**Public participation**: no one seeking.

Kotas and Siler gave reports on the status of the projects in Lee Twp and Holland, respectively,

Adjournment: Moved by Marsman, seconded by Bursma. Passed: 5:02pm

Next meeting: August 3.