

Allegan County Broadband Action Workgroup

February 3, 2022

Minutes

CTO: 4:01 pm

Chair Marsman convened the workgroup

Present: Jim Storey, Tim Kotas, Ted Siler, William Brown, Austin Marsman, Scott Beltman,

Public Comment: No one sought recognition

Minutes of the December 2 and 16 and January 20 meetings were approved with a factual change.

PROJECT MANAGER: Discussion occurred with county administrator and the work group on the project manager position. The final two candidates will be interviewed by the county administrator Sarro. He advised progress should continue. Tim Kotas said that the interview team has consensus on the final two candidates.

COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - Administrator Sarro also advised the group's communication to the county's local governments has been dispatched. Mr Sarro asked what should be done with responses. Chair Marsman suggested that the responses should be shared with the members of the workgroup. The local governments were requested to send responses by March 1.

SCORING GRID REVIEW -- The group discussed a scoring chart developed by vice chair Kotas using a Barry County document as a starting point. The Beltman moved to approve it in draft framework. Passed by voice vote.

PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING THE PROPOSALS – The proposal was discussed by the group and the draft was approved. Kotas moved approval of the procedure; seconded by Brown. Passed on voice vote.

Marsman said he had get acquainted meeting with Comcast. Also, he met with Plainwell city officials to hear a proposal for the expansion of the city's industrial park.

Kotas asked if it is appropriate for the group to review Lee Township plans for input. Consensus was yes,

PUBLIC COMMENT - Steve Schulz of Bloomingdale Communications gave an update on information about materials. Contractor said it was 80 weeks out to get fiber, and similar waiting periods for other necessary materials. He encouraged the group to get in line for materials. He said that it was important to start construction. Member Siler said that because the money hasn't been released yet, the backlog is likely to get worse. William Gillenwater of

Wayland Township addressed the group. He asked if the group had approached Great Lakes Energy. Member Storey said that invitation has been issued; no firm commitment yet.

Adjourned: 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Storey, Secretary