



MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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****PUBLIC:** Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, you may access this meeting remotely:

<https://monroecountywi.webex.com/> or Join by phone: +1-404-397-1516 United States Toll

Meeting Number: 2496 141 7956

Access Code: 2496 141 7956

Password: Broadband

NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE:

BROADBAND SPECIAL COMMITTEE

DATE:

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TIME:

5:00 p.m.

PLACE:

**Monroe County Justice Center
Monroe County Assembly Room
112 South Court Street (South Entrance)
Sparta, WI 54656**

SUBJECT MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of January 19, 2022 Minutes
3. Updates on Letters of Support, Broadband-Telecommuter Forward, Additional Solicitations for Support
4. Review of County Vernon Communications PPE Agreement
5. Broadband Provider Updates
6. Feedback/Recommendations on Monroe County Broadband Expansion Presentation at the February 23rd County Board Meeting
7. Broadband Sub-Page on Monroe County Website – Discussion/Action
8. Committee Recommendation on Broadband Expansion, 1st Phase – Discussion/Action
9. Additional next steps – Discussion
10. Next Meeting Date and Time
11. Adjournment

Ron Luethe/Jen Schmitz, Committee Co-Chairs

BROADBAND SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Date notices mailed: February 10, 2022

Committee Members: Ron Luethe, Josh Lydon, Jen Schmitz, Dennis Treu, Ben Crenshaw, Rick Folkedahl, Jim VanWychen, Cedric Schnitzler, Paul Potter and Nidia Alcantar

PLEASE NOTE: A quorum of the Monroe County Board or other committees may be present at this meeting. No business of the County Board or other committees will be conducted at this meeting, only the business noted above.

Broadband Special Committee Meeting January 19, 2022

Monroe County Board Assembly Room

Present: Ron Luethe, Jen Schmitz, Jim VanWychen, Cedric Schnitzler, Rick Folkedahl

Other: Tina Osterberg, Adrian Lockington, Don Hammer, Hillsboro Telephone

Adam Balz, Mary Von Ruden, Nodji VanWychen,

Web Ex: Coon Valley Farmers Telephone, Brad Peters, Dennis Treu,

Call to order Roll

Meeting was called to order in the Monroe County Board Assembly Room at 5:00p.m. by chair Ron Luethe.

Motion by Cedric Schnitzler second by Jim VanWychen to approve of the December 29, 2021 meeting minutes. Carried.

Telecommuter Forward and Broadband Forward Resolutions and Ordinances Updates- Tina Osterberg comments to the Certificates Monroe County received.

Broadband Survey Updates- Jen Schmitz provides updates on survey.

Letters of support requests and receipts- Adrian Lockington provides updates and tracking all documents submitted.

Potential broadband provider presentation-

Hillsboro Telephone-

Don Hammer provides overview of company and where they serve. Does 100% fiber to home only. Small company all work together with neighboring business. Comments on future projects and completion.

Broadband Testing Site- Geo Partners 7 Rivers Alliance, Chris Hardie – Ron Luethe comments that 7 Rivers Alliance received a grant to do the speed test and was awarded the grant. Link in agenda.

<https://expressoptimizer1.net/public/index.php?banner=GEO.png&entity=the%20GEO&testtype=NDT&recordcounter=348>

Next steps- PPP Agreements – open discussion

Next steps – Letters of Support – open discussion

Next Steps, Broadband-Telecommuter Forward – open discussion

Additional next steps- Discussion

Next Meeting Date and Time- February 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Monroe County Board Assembly Room.

Motion by Ron Luethe second by Jim VanWychen to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. carried.

Public Private Partnership Agreement

**By and between the County of Monroe, Wisconsin and
Vernon Communications Cooperative**

WHEREAS, the County of Monroe, a political subdivision of the State of Wisconsin, seeks to help provide access to resources and the support structure necessary for economic development within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Communications Cooperative, a Wisconsin corporation ("Vernon"), proposes to expand broadband capability to reach the un-served or underserved residences and businesses in Monroe County where such service is currently unavailable or is prohibitively expensive; and

WHEREAS, it is currently expected that the proposed broadband expansion would be constructed in areas within Monroe County, Wisconsin and the enhanced broadband access and availability will be utilized to position Monroe County for desirable economic growth by addressing existing service disparities; and

WHEREAS, Vernon is applying for a Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant, through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, to expand access to broadband services in Monroe County, specifically the County's Rural Monroe County Project; and

WHEREAS, to further support its application for a Broadband Expansion Grant, the Monroe County Board of Supervisors enter into an Agreement with Vernon, referred to as a Public Private Partnership Agreement, to assist in this Project by:

Providing \$1,696,704.00 in cash for aid to construction for fiber-optic facilities to and throughout the project area from the second half American Rescue Plan Act Funds to be received in 2022. The County also agrees to provide, in-kind assistance to the Project which may be in the form of waived fees and expenses for obtaining permits or permissions required from Monroe County government;

Providing Vernon access to funds during the Project's construction phase, on a short term basis with no finance fees or interest, to pay for the construction portion of the project in an amount not to exceed the amount eligible for reimbursement by the Broadband Expansion Grant. Vernon will reimburse the County for these funds immediately upon reimbursement by the Broadband Expansion Grant.

Granting permission on and across County property to engage in activities to construct the Project in compliance with all existing rules and regulations;

Providing community education and outreach regarding the expansion of broadband access to residences and businesses within the scope of the Broadband Expansion Project; and recognizing that the Broadband Expansion Project is a priority and is consistent with internal planning documents adopted by Monroe County government.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and among the Parties as follows:

1. Records. Monroe County will maintain and be the custodian of all records associated with the administering and performance of this Agreement and will make those records available upon request.

2. Reporting. Vernon shall meet with the Monroe County Finance Committee on a semi-annual basis for the purpose of presenting an oral report on the status of the Project. The date, time and place of such meeting shall be determined cooperatively among the parties. No less than seven (7) days prior to such meeting, Vernon shall provide a written report regarding siting and construction progress in respect to the Project.

3. Effective Date. This Agreement shall become effective upon its adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2026 or terminated as provided herein.

4. New Members. After the effective date of this Agreement, additional municipalities may join in this Agreement.

5. Termination. This Agreement shall be deemed terminated by any party upon thirty (30) days written notice requesting termination of this Agreement in whole or in part.

6. Severability. The terms of this Agreement are severable and any determination by any court or agency having jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Agreement that results in the invalidity of any part shall not affect the remainder of the Agreement.

7. Amendments. The terms of this Agreement shall not be amended without the written authorization of the governing bodies of all Participating Parties.

8. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

9. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

COUNTY OF MONROE, WISCONSIN

A Participating Party

BY: _____
Cedric Schnitzler, Chairman Board of Supervisors

BY: _____
Shelley Bohl, County Clerk

Date: _____

VERNON COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

A Participating Party

BY: _____
Rodney D. Olson, CEO & General Manager

Date: _____