

TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE PUBLIC MEETING

Technology Committee

Date: Monday, May 2, 2022

Time: 5:15 pm

Place: Liberty Grove Town Hall, 11161 Old Stage Road

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 3/7/2022
5. Public Input
6. Status reports:
 - a. Business Continuity Project
 - b. 2022 PSC Grant
 - c. EV Charger at Ellison Bay Community Center
7. EV Charger at Maritime Museum
8. Report on Local Broadband Activities
 - a. Nsight Engineering Design Project
 - b. PSC Grant Applications: Frontier, Charter, Baileys Harbor
 - c. Nsight Local Office
9. Town Website Question and Answer
10. Public Communication/Education Regarding Broadband Implementation
11. Northern Door Intercommunity Broadband Efforts
12. 2023 Technology Committee Budget Request
13. Personal Biographies for Town Newsletter
14. Correspondence
15. Future meeting
16. Adjourn

All agenda items will include discussion and possible action. Deviation from listed order may occur

***Audience members must ask for permission, during public input, to speak on agenda items ***

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Members of the Town Board or any other Town Committee, who are not members of the body whose meeting agenda is published in this notice, are entitled, as any other citizen of the Town of Liberty Grove, to attend this meeting in an unofficial capacity. It is possible the attendance of one or more non-members may create a quorum of the membership of another body. Such a quorum is unintended, and the non-members are not meeting for the purpose of exercising the powers or duties attendant upon their membership on any Town Committee or Board

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Technology Committee meeting on March 7, 2022
(This meeting was posted correctly)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 2/7/2022
5. Public input
6. Status reports:
 - a. 2021 Business Continuity Project
 - b. County ARPA funds to be provided to municipalities
 - c. Survey for Door County North business group
 - d. 2022 PSC Grant
7. Town-wide Broadband Engineering Design Study and Timeline
8. Integration of broadband, affordable housing, and business expansion efforts
9. Public Communication and education regarding Town-wide fiber implementation
10. Future meeting
11. Adjourn

Chair David Studebaker called the meeting to order at 5:08pm. Committee members Les Keepper, and Dan Watts were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell and 2 members of the public via Zoom. Committee member John Dwonch was excused.

Studebaker moved, Keepper second to approve the agenda with items 8 and 9 to be discussed in reversed order. Carried 3-0. Committee member Cathy Ward connected to the meeting.

Studebaker moved, Ward second to approve the 2/7/2022 minutes as corrected. Carried 4-0.

Public Input – None.

Business Continuity Project – Studebaker reported that he has asked Watts to work with Keepper on this project.

County ARPA Funds – Studebaker reported that the amount allocated is based on dwellings regardless of being occupied. These funds may be available but will be restricted to broadband projects.

Survey Distributed by DCN – Studebaker indicated the survey is schedule to be distributed by Mickie today and Nsight has recommended a similar survey be sent to residents.

2022 PSC Grant – Studebaker reported that Nsight has confirmed this project will proceed despite the increased costs.

Engineering Design Study – Studebaker reported that the Town Board has decided to move ahead with this design study and will borrow the full \$150,000 with payments in 2022 to come from the Technology Capital funds.

Public Communication/Education – Studebaker anticipates that information will need to be available and shared to gain public support. Ward will contact Gibraltar School for education related updates. It was noted that the need for broadband is apparent. An explanation of the costs will be better received when the financial information is available. Studebaker requested members focus on ideas for the educational materials.

Broadband, Housing, and Business Expansion – Studebaker requested members think about how these items are related and how efforts can be shared. Lowry indicated the Economic Development Committee is planning to review Town maps with the Plan Commission and he anticipates a mid-summer meeting to be held with the Economic Development and Technology Committees.

The next Technology Committee meeting will be Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:15pm.

Ward moved, Watts second to adjourn at 6:32pm. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

DRAFT

SemaConnect Upgrade



SemaConnect

Background

- 2G/3G cell service is going to be sunset
 - Verizon and AT&T are sunsetting the old cell technology
 - Will continue to support LTE
 - For stations with the old cell technology, the cell module must be upgraded
 - Offering discount on replacement stations
- SemaConnect will be scheduling site visits based on locations to do the swaps, will be within 4 weeks of placing the order

Upgrade Option #1 - \$1,990 per station

- Discounted from price of \$3,590
- Fully upgrade your station by replacing the station
- Upgraded station includes all updated features
- Labor to swap the station is included
- Includes one year warranty
- Continue with your existing network services
- Cell repeater recommendation provided (cell repeater material and labor cost is not included)

Upgrade Option #2 - \$400 per station

- Upgrade cell module within the station
- Labor to swap the station and shipping are included
- Cell repeater recommendation provided (cell repeater material and labor cost is not included)

Additional Stations - \$2,590 per station

- Discounted from price of \$3,590
- Upgraded station includes all updated features
- Includes one year warranty and one year network services
- Cell repeater recommendation provided (cell repeater material and labor cost is not included)

Local Broadband activity information – as of 4-27-22

Nsight Engineering Design Project information

Earlier this year both Baileys Harbor and Liberty Grove Town Boards approved spending up to \$150,000 for a Fiber Broadband Engineering Design Project to be defined and managed by Nsight. The low bid for Baileys Harbor was \$173,700. The Baileys Harbor Town Board approved proceeding. Liberty Grove is significantly larger than Baileys Harbor, both in terms of homes and miles of road. We can expect the quote for our design project to be significantly higher than that of Baileys Harbor thus significantly more than the approved \$150,000. The RFP for Liberty Grove will be sent out shortly.

Key factors regarding the likely increased cost of the Engineering Design:

- a. All broadband related costs are going up rapidly. Fiber system construction labor is the fastest escalating cost and becoming the scarcest commodity. Waiting will result in higher prices later.
- b. If we want to get in line early for resources including grant funds, we need to move quickly. We know from the Frontier and Charter PSC grant applications that the big guys are on the hunt.
- c. The cost of the design, even if it's \$300,000, is a small part of the total project cost. It's a little like what Karen and I experienced considering the cost of the septic installation compared to the total cost of building our home here 30 some years ago. The septic system seemed like a lot of money to just be buried in the ground, but no septic, no home. No design, no network project.

Frontier and Charter PSC Broadband Grant Applications

Both Frontier and Charter made several applications for the latest round of PSC grants. Their applications were for large \$ amounts. The Frontier application covered parts of Liberty Grove. The Charter application did not cover any of Liberty Grove. Both proposals cherry picked areas to cover. Neither one provided 100% coverage for any community they touched. The Frontier application provided less than 30% in matching funds and was not supported by any Door County community. The PSC prefers a much high percentage match by the applicant. The Town of Liberty Grove objected to the Frontier application. The Charter application offered a match of more than 50%. Even though they cherry picked, several communities supported the application on the basis of something is better than nothing. Some of us strongly disagree with that approach as it assures some locations will be left high and dry for a long time to come. Decisions by the PSC on applications will likely come sometime this summer.

Baileys Harbor PSC Grant Application

In March, Baileys Harbor filed a PSC grant application for a project covering 100% of Baileys Harbor homes, businesses and anchor institutions. The application is for a grant of \$1,890,000, 36% of a project of \$5,250,000. The rest of the funds (the matching portion) are to be provided by Door County (\$38,000), Nsight (\$400,000) with the Town of Baileys Harbor financing almost \$3,000,000. The rationale is that the combined cost of Nsight fiber broadband service **plus** the cost of debt service over 20 years will provide every home and business and anchor institution 10 to 25 times the speed and higher reliability at a lower monthly cost. That's true even if they receive no grant money!

Nsight purchased Northern Door Communications, the Cellcom reseller in Sister Bay. The Sister Bay location will serve as a retail and service office for both cellular and broadband services.

Priority	Description	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	Capital Projects	\$ 12,000	\$ 55,000			
	New project requests, required upgrades and maintenance of existing equipment					
	Grant application costs					
	Public auto recharging station (add 1 per year)					
	Construction & Equipment					
	Electrical and service fees	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 250	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
	Public Wifi					
	Electrical and service fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,086	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Town Hall Equipment					
	Conference room and meeting room monitors					
	Town Hall phone system		\$ -			
	Board dias monitors		\$ -			
	Backup and Security					
	Antivirus, backup, antispan & password manager software (may become annual expense)	\$ -				
	Professional services	\$ -				
	Backup/recovery testing and digitization of paper documents	\$ -		\$ 170		\$ 170
	Document scanner for digitizing	\$ -				
		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,086	\$ 1,420	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,170

240 SenaConnect EV@MM

DCMM DCB 75.85*12 (\$910)
WC Charter
Info booth \$480

150 iCloud
20 gmail storage

Encumbered Projects

Information Technology		
1/1/2014 - from 2014 IT budget	\$17,000.00	
12/19/2014 - purchase 3 work stations	-\$2,865.00	
End of year 2014 (authorized to carry over for quarry tower)		\$14,135.00
1/1/2015 - from budget (Tower & mics)	\$17,000.00	
7/15/2015 - sent to DC Broadband	-\$14,000.00	
12-16-15 - mics for meeting room	-\$1,536.77	
End of year 2015 (authorized to carry over to 2016 for new tower)		\$15,000.00
2016 budget authorization	\$5,000.00	
Expense for ads in Pulse	-\$150.00	
End of year 2016 (authorized to carry over for tower)		\$19,850.00
Pulse ads in 2016	-\$264.82	
Authorized for towers from 2017 budget	\$11,850.00	
End of 2017 authorized to carry over		\$31,435.18
Moved to tech capital (for broadband forward)	-\$31,435.18	
End of year 2018		\$0.00
12-18-19 moved from 2019 Tech operating budget for meeting room screen installation	\$3,000.00	
End of year 2019		\$3,000.00
Install screen in small meeting room in 2020 (not possible COVID)	\$0.00	
Moved from Tech operating for WC car charger & WiFi installation (waiting for electric)	\$0.00	
10-21-20 Board moved to support DCEDC broadband study from Tech Encumbered(\$3,000)	\$0.00	
10-21-20 Board moved to support DCEDC broadband study from Tech Capital	\$1,000.00	
End of year 2020		\$4,000.00
6/28/2021 - Board designated ARPA funds (yr 1) for 2022 PSC Grant Application	\$91,951.33	
6/28/2021 - from Tech capital for PSC grant	\$61,097.34	
7/21/2021 - Install screen in small meeting room (paid from 2021 office budget)	\$0.00	
8/18/2021 - DCEDC for broadband study	-\$3,000.00	
12/29/2021 - Board designated Economic Development budget funds for Finley Study	\$6,500.00	
12/29/2021 - Board designated Economic Development budget funds for Baylake Regional membership	\$5,943.00	
End of year 2021		\$166,491.67
6/28/2021 - Board designated ARPA funds (yr 2) for 2022 PSC Grant Application	\$91,951.33	
End of year 2022		\$258,443.00

Capital Tech

1/1/2018 - from 2018 budget	\$25,000.00	
Moved from 2017-for broadband forward	\$31,435.18	
End of year 2018		\$56,435.18
1/1/2019 - from 2019 budget	\$25,000.00	
10/16/19 - Moved from IT budget by Board approval	\$15,000.00	
End of year 2019		\$96,435.18
1/1/2020 - from 2020 budget	\$75,400.00	
10/21/20 - DCEDC Broadband Study support	-\$1,000.00	
12/2020 - 2018 Grant expenses	-\$65,131.71	
End of year 2020		\$105,703.47
1/1/2021 - from 2021 budget	\$12,000.00	
3/3/2021 - 2018 Grant expenses (pd to DCB)	-\$16,930.97	
6/28/2021 - moved to encumbered projects for PSC grant application	-\$61,097.34	
End of year 2021		\$39,675.16
1/1/2022 - from 2022 budget	\$55,000.00	
End of year 2022		\$94,675.16