

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Technology Committee meeting on April 8, 2021
(This meeting was posted correctly)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes: 2/11/2021
5. Public input
6. Discussion and possible action: Town Hall IT Business Continuity Project status
7. Discussion and possible action: review of Technology Committee Mission Statement
8. DCEDC Broadband Infrastructure study and responses
9. Discussion and possible action: Future direction for Liberty Grove broadband expansion
 - a. 2021 PSC Grant awards
 - b. Fiber versus fixed wireless projects
 - i. American Recovery Act monies to Liberty Grove and Door County
 - ii. DCB tower project cost sharing proposal in lieu of PSC grant project
 - iii. Washington Island Electric Co-op FTTP project
10. Review of Technology Committee possible five year projects list
11. Schedule next meeting
12. Adjourn

Chair David Studebaker called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. Committee members Dan Watts, Cathy Ward, and Les Keepper were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, and Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, via teleconference (Zoom). Committee member Peter Brooks were excused.

Studebaker moved, Ward second to approve the agenda as posted. Passed 4-0.

Ward moved, Watts second to approve the 2/11/2021 minutes as presented. Passed 4-0.

Public Input – None. Committee member John Dwonch connected to the meeting.

IT Business Continuity Project – Keepper reported that the goal is to create a plan and protect the current data. He has spoken to Quantum, NWTC may have interns available, and DCEDC recommended contacting the Towns Association. The first step will be to assess equipment, software, and who has control of these items. Ransomware is the largest threat. A site visit/analysis will be scheduled.

Mission Statement – The current mission statement was reviewed, and changes were made. **Studebaker moved, Dwonch second** to disperse the current version for the committee members to review and discuss at the next meeting. Passed 5-0

DCEDC Broadband Infrastructure Study – Studebaker reported that the purpose of this study is to have information available for future grant applications. DCEDC only received 3 responses due to the workload of current companies. Watts noted that projects are often wasted because the technology changes faster than the funds for the project can be obtained. Ward noted that the Town Board has approved \$2 per capita for this from the Arp funds after they have been received.

Future Town broadband expansion – Studebaker reported on the following items:

2021 PSC Grant –Town’s application was not successful.

Fiber versus fixed wireless – The vast majority of the awarded 2021 grants were for fiber projects and not fixed wireless projects. Fixed wireless and satellite seem to be the short-term options while fiber is the long-term option but it is likely to be 5-10 years away.

American Recovery Act – funds will be available for municipalities and can be used on broadband expansion.

DCB tower project cost sharing proposal – A smaller project may be possible with a \$75,000 commitment from DCB and the Town.

Washington Island Electric Co-op FTTP project – Studebaker reported that the Island Co-op has started their project and they hope to have the whole Island served by fiber in 5 years. They may be willing to assist in starting a fiber co-op in Liberty Grove. DCEDC has recognized that government and co-ops are among the viable funding options for a County-wide internet solution.

5-year projects – This item was not discussed.

The next Technology Committee meeting will be Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 4:00pm

Ward moved, Keepper to adjourn at 6:04pm. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 5-13-2021 Technology Committee meeting.