

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Technology Committee meeting on December 6, 2021

(This meeting was posted correctly)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 11/1/2021
5. Public input
6. Status Reports:
 - a. EV charger installation at the Community Center
 - b. 2021 Business Continuity Project
 - c. 2022 PSC Grant Project
 - d. DCEDC Broadband Engineering Study
7. Presentation by Kurt Kiefer on Baileys Harbor Broadband efforts
8. Joining Baileys Harbor for Broadband Efforts
 - a. Finley Study Extension
 - b. Liberty Grove Community Broadband interest survey
9. 2023 PSC Grant Application and Funding
10. Remaining 2021 Technology Budget Funds
11. Future meeting
12. Adjourn

Chair David Studebaker called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. Committee members Cathy Ward, and Les Keepper were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell and 4 members of the public via Zoom. Committee member Dan Watts was absent.

Ward moved, Keepper second to approve the agenda as posted. Passed 3-0.

Studebaker moved, Ward second to approve the 11/1/2021 minutes as presented. Passed 3-0.

Public Input – None.

EV Charger – Kalms reported that the electrical work is scheduled for this spring.

Business Continuity Project – Keepper reported that the inventory is complete.

2022 PSC Grant Project – Studebaker reported the kick off meeting was held with Nsight. They are expected to complete the project in one construction season once the current line and pole placements concerns are resolved. At this time, overhead versus underground installation will be determined by the engineers, and customers will not have a choice.

DCEDC Broadband Study – Studebaker reported that the report was provided. A new committee is being formed for the next phase which is implementation. Committee member John Downch connected to the meeting.

Baileys Harbor Broadband Efforts – Kurt Kiefer, of Baileys Harbor, indicated that the Finley study provides the necessary cohesive data. The results confirm fiber is the only solution from a technology standpoint and this has become an infrastructure issue. Baileys Harbor is hoping to find federal and/or state funding options for 40% - 60% of the installation estimated to cost \$65,000 per mile.

Finley Study Extension – Kifer reported that Baileys Harbor is considering spending \$6,000 to have Finley determine the fiber engineering. Liberty Grove would need to contact Finley for an estimate.

Town Broadband Interest Survey – Kifer reported that Baileys Harbor used the Town subscriber list, the Community Association mailing list, and the survey is available on their website.

2023 Grant Application and Funding – Studebaker reported that Nsight has not committed to a future grant project at this time. It was the consensus that funding could be sought for the entire project and grants could then be applied for to expenses as they occur whereas applying for grants at the beginning is making very little progress. **Keeper moved, Studebaker second** to recommend the Town Board seek funding to provide broadband fiber to the entire Town of Liberty Grove. The motion was amended to include a cost not to exceed 12 million. Roll call vote on the amended motion with Ward, Keeper, Studebaker, and Dwonch voting aye, no nays. Passed 4-0.

2021 Technology Budget – Bell reported on the amounts for operating budget, capital, and encumbered projects.

The next Technology Committee meeting will be Monday, February 7, 2022 at 5:00pm.

Ward moved, Dwonch second to adjourn at 6:07pm. Passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 2/7/2022 Technology Committee meeting.