

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Technology Committee meeting on October 31, 2022

(This meeting was posted correctly)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve Minutes: 9/19/2022
5. Public Input
6. Project Status Reports:
 - a. Town Network Design Project
 - b. Northport Pilot Project
 - c. County Broadband Survey Results
7. Town Broadband Efforts/Needs Mailing(s)
 - a. Pilot Project
 - b. Town-wide Project
8. Preparation of Application for State Broadband Grants
9. Correspondence
10. Future meeting
11. Adjourn

Chair David Studebaker called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Committee members Cathy Ward, Jodi Bensyl, Kirk Scattergood, Joel Asher, Dan Watts, and Les Keepper were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, and 2 members of the public.

Ward moved, Scattergood second to approve the agenda as posted. Carried 7-0.

Studebaker moved, Ward second to approve the 9/19/2022 minutes as presented. Carried 7-0.

Public Input – Committee members provided brief introductions.

Network Design Project – Bob Webb, Nsight, reported the agreement is being reviewed by FARR and the completion date is the only anticipated change to come. He requested the Town attorneys create the first draft of the Town-wide agreement.

Northport Pilot Project – Bob Webb reported the agreement has been signed, there are 18 pending orders, splicing is done, installs may happen by Thanksgiving, and the entire project is expected to be complete during spring of 2023.

County Broadband Survey – Studebaker reported there are 226 results in Liberty Grove. Michael O'Malley, Nsight, noted it would be beneficial to get results in the areas without responses so far.

Pilot Project Mailing – The committee reviewed the draft letter and Studebaker noted hand-addressing the envelopes may encourage more people to open the letter. Bob Webb noted Nsight will do another sales push in the spring. **Studebaker moved, Scattergood second** to recommend the Town Board proceed with sending the proposed mailing to the Pilot project property owners to inform them of the availability of service. Carried 7-0.

Town-wide Project Mailing – Studebaker inquired about town-wide letters, postcards, or newspaper ads. Bell noted the survey will be with the tax bills going out at the beginning of December. Bensyl volunteered to check if the Piggly Wiggly would allow a flier at the registers.

Future Broadband Grants – Bob Webb indicated Liberty Grove will be a priority for Nsight in writing the next available grant applications. Mick O'Malley reported that there are three known grants on the horizon. The first application is anticipated in December of 2022 for State fund, the available amount is unknown but is estimated to be a few million. The second application is anticipated in early 2023 for 40 million dollars of PSC/Federal funds from the capital projects fund. The third application is anticipated in August 2023(or later) for Federal funds (BEAD) which will depend on the November 2022 service maps. He noted the Town will be able to apply for subsequent grants and it may be beneficial to split the Town by geographical area once the applications requirements are known. Webb noted project costs will be estimated for the applications since engineering is not likely to be available. It will be important to demonstrate a need and a willingness to commit Town funds, but any portion of the project completed after a grant has been awarded should be able to be covered by grant funds. O'Malley noted small weekly meetings are likely to occur once the application requirements are known.

Correspondence – None.

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

Watts moved, Scattergood second to adjourn at 8:11pm. Carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 12/5/2022 Technology Committee meeting.