

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Special Town Board meeting on June 22, 2022
(this meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Declaration of a quorum followed by pledge of allegiance
3. Approve agenda
4. Fiber Project Agreement with Nsight-Northport PILOT Project
5. Broadband Engineering Design Proposals-FARR, Mi-Tech
 - a. Informational Meetings/Mailings
6. Harmari STR Compliance Monitoring Contract
7. Adjourn

Chairman John Lowry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Supervisors Dan Watts, Janet Johnson, Cathy Ward, and Nancy Goss were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, and 7 members of the public.

Ward moved, Goss second to approve the agenda as posted. Carried 5-0.

Northport PILOT Project – Johnson received confirmation that the project costs are only Liberty Grove even though this will tie into the Island project. Kalms indicated there are several items legal staff would like added. It was the consensus to have the Town legal staff revise the agreement and submit it to Nsight for further review.

Broadband Engineering Design – Bob Webb, Nsight, noted that this project will require additional equipment and commuting time which directly increased the estimate. The final report will be Nsight specific, it will leverage current assets and be used to create a project cost for construction bids. Nsight is working to develop a clawback clause in the event of bankruptcy, corporate structure changes, or sale. It is the assumption that Nsight will be the partner for this project and assets will be transferred to them upon completion as the ISP. Andrew Gantman, Sister Bay, expressed concern with turning all assets over to Nsight, and asked if any other vendors were asked to install the fiber. Goss noted Frontier and Spectrum have only focused on densely populated areas, not Town-wide service in grant applications. Chuck Scheckel, Sister Bay, asked if the County has funds. Watts noted there may be State funds available in the next few years. Webb indicated Statutes §66.042 allow a municipality to build a neutral network which would exclude any currently serviced areas from funding requests. The Town would then need to become a public access network provider and have an agreement with WPS for make-ready information. The recent service price increases by Nsight is the first in several years and speed tests are typically limited by the equipment on site, not the network. Dave Studebaker, Ellison Bay, indicated that this process started over two years ago. Nsight is the first company willing to be the partner in providing town-wide service; investigating another company would create a 2-to-4-year delay. Nsight has the expertise we need to manage the construction processes with the understanding they may be able to recover some construction costs as the end ISP. Kalms noted that construction is the only portion that will require bids. Robert LeClair, Sister Bay, reported Frontier has a new CEO with a fiber focus and asked if Nsight is making plans for a local office to handle service calls. Johnson asked if Nsight would consider a return of funds based on the number of subscribers. Webb replied that this is the only model that has been developed by the Nsight legal team at this time; the asset will not be worth what it costs to install. The Town can have Nsight collect a video service fee from their customers with video services and the Sister Bay Cellcom office will be for service calls. It was the consensus that the

engineering study is the next step, and the loan payments can be accounted for during the 2023 budget process. **Lowry moved, Johnson second** to proceed with engineering design proposal from FARR. Roll call: Watts, Lowry, Goss, Johnson, and Ward voted aye, no nays. Carried 5-0. Webb requested the Board consider participating in a joint project with WPS on East Door Bluff Road and Garrett Bay Road. Participation will decrease the overall engineering and construction costs of the town-wide project.

Broadband Informational Meetings – Lowry indicated it is too early to schedule.

Harmari STR Contract – Kalms indicated the Town legal team is scheduled to review this. Goss asked if the current computer/internet is viable with their requirements. She stated the address identification and hotline services are not currently desired. Ward noted there is a group that is working to identify renters that have caused issues.

Lowry moved, Goss second to adjourn at 8:40pm. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 7/20/2022 Town Board meeting.