Town of Sturgeon Bay
Broadband Internet Committee Meeting
Door County Library
November 30, 2023 Minutes

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by David Wood at 3:00 pm.
2. Establish quorum: Board members present: Jeff Feuerstein, Randy Graf, Pam Kraase, David Wood. Present via Zoom: Cathy Eckers. Community Members present: Jessica Hatch, Hugh Zettel.
3. Adopt agenda: Motion by Kraase to approve agenda. Second by Feuerstein. Motion carried.
4. Review and approval of minutes from November 15, 2023 meeting: Motion by Feuerstein to approve minutes. Second by Kraase. Motion carried.
5. Correspondence: Correspondence from Hugh Zettel re: Charter. Will be discussed later in the meeting.
6. Public comment: No public members present, no correspondence to read.
7. Old business:
    a. Nothing further regarding Q&A document or other communication outreach. Email correspondence with Madel has tapered off.
    b. Update from Hugh Zettel; Spectrum has put forward an objection to the grant application that AT&T submitted to the PSC on behalf of Town of Sturgeon Bay (ToST), as well as other Door County towns including Sevastopol and Egg Harbor. Spectrum states that AT&T is encroaching on their established service area and is proposing to run fiber to fewer addresses in ToST with a lower service speed of 100/20, as opposed to the speeds of 100/100 proposed by AT&T. In order to respond to the Spectrum objection, it was recommended that the committee work with AT&T to clean up our community address map to determine accurate numbers. Wood to provide info and support and assist AT&T is responding to Spectrum's objection. Because the Spectrum objections are county-wide, Hatch and Zettel are investigating a county-wide response to Spectrum's challenge.
    c. Broadband map updates – temporarily on hold until January 2024, pending guidelines and a process for updates coming from the Door County FiberNet office. Need to get data from Sevastopol and Southern Door schools
    d. No discussion
    e. No discussion

f. The broadband committee is responsible for putting together the contract and resolution for the town board to review and approve.

8. New business
    a. Possible BEAD application: If AT&T's CPF grant application is unsuccessful, the committee is evaluating whether it makes sense to apply for BEAD funding. Applying for future BEAD funds opens sometime in 2024, delaying the implementation of installation of FTP until 2025. In addition, waiting longer may result in higher interest rates, which will be going up soon, according to Hatch who met with a representative from the loan department from Nicolet National Bank. BEAD grant monies are still an option for funding ToST fiber, but the timeline and long delay in moving forward with the process make this questionable.

9. Items for future meetings
    a. Financing: With regard to funding, there is an emphasis on obtaining the number of families in our township to support the argument that the sooner we obtain broadband service township wide, the better it will be for families with school-age children. Hatch's office has data from Southern Door available for the committee's use. The best bet for funding may be the BCPL as the interest rates are reasonable and monies are available quickly.
    b. Increase survey participation: No discussion
    c. Improve accuracy of service maps: No discussion

10. Next meeting date: Thursday, December 14, 2023, 3:00-5:00 pm, Meeting Room 1 at Door County library in Sturgeon Bay

11. Motion to adjourn by Feuerstein, seconded by Graf. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Kraase, Sturgeon Bay Broadband Committee member.