

John F. Fuentes  
County Administrator/Controller

Todd J. Campbell  
Deputy Administrator



Cindy Moser  
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**BROADBAND TASK FORCE  
MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.  
CLINTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ROOM  
100 EAST STATE STREET, ST. JOHNS, MI 48879**

1	3:00	CALL TO ORDER, ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA
2	3:02	LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENTS
3	3:05	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
4	3:10	GUIDEHOUSE – BROADBAND UPDATE (ADAM SMIDDY) – NO ATTACHMENT
5	3:50	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
<b>**MEETING STARTS PROMPTLY AT CALL TO ORDER TIME LISTED. AGENDA ITEM TIMES MAY VARY**</b>		

PACKET INFORMATION IS CURRENT AS OF POSTING DATE. **NOTE:** ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE PRESENTED ON SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS. AGENDA ITEMS MAY ALSO BE ADDED DUE TO BUSINESS NEEDS.

TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATIONS OR MATERIALS IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT, PLEASE CONTACT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AT 989-224-5120 OR VIA EMAIL AT [ADMIN@CLINTON-COUNTY.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@CLINTON-COUNTY.ORG) NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

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**BROADBAND TASK FORCE**  
Monday, March 6, 2023

**Members Present:**

Bob Showers, Chairperson  
Bruce DeLong  
John Fuentes  
Todd Campbell (alternate)  
Patti Schafer  
Nicole Fickes  
Jason Almerigi  
Joel Haviland  
Todd Kruse (via zoom)

**Staff Present:**

Penny Goerge  
Craig Thelen  
Phil Hanses  
Cindy Moser

**Members Excused**

Wayne Smith  
Doug Riley  
Kari Dickenson

**Others Present**

Adam Smiddy, Guidehouse  
Mike Ellis, Lansing State Journal  
Peter Klein, Clinton County RESA

**Items of Business**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Member Almerigi moved, seconded by Member Schafer, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. **Limited Public Comments:** Broadband Task Force Chairperson Showers requested limited public comments. There were none.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The January 23, 2023, minutes were presented for review and approval.

**Member Almerigi moved, seconded by Member Schafer, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

4. **Broadband Initiative Update - Guidehouse:** Broadband Task Force Chairperson Showers introduced Adam Smiddy from Guidehouse to provide an update regarding Clinton County's Broadband Initiative.
  - **Michigan Highspeed Internet (MIHI) Grant Application** - Discussion took place regarding the ROBIN (Realizing Opportunities in Broadband Infrastructure Networks) Grant:
    - Mr. Smiddy provided a brief overview of the ROBIN Program Guidelines, noting that points will be awarded based on the ratio of the proposed cost of minimum service offering compared to the national benchmark standard published by the FCC for the same level of service (\$98.59/month for 100/100 Mbps); Frontier offers plans that fit within the benchmark and the County will be able to maximize the most points in this area of the grant application;
    - Mr. Smiddy informed the members if a government entity is to be the recipient and fiduciary of a ROBIN grant in partnership with an Internet Service Provider (ISP), it must be for an unserved area that has not been applied for by another ISP on their own; this means if there is an overlap between a governmental entity application and an ISP application for the same unserved area, the ISP application would receive preference and the governmental entity application would not be eligible; however, an ISP may be the recipient and fiduciary of a ROBIN grant in partnership with a governmental entity, so in this instance the preference would not apply as the private ISP is the recipient and fiduciary, not the governmental entity;

therefore, it makes more sense for Frontier to be the applicant in order for the County to be more successful;

- The Task Force was informed the County Board of Commissioners authorized a Resolution in February approving a Memorandum of Agreement with Frontier to affirm its intent to enter this public-private partnership agreement with Frontier, Inc. in their pursuit of the State ROBIN grant funding;
  - Discussion followed regarding safeguards to ensure Frontier fulfills their responsibilities;
  - It was noted that Frontier will be directly responsible for grant reporting to the State of Michigan, which places the County in a better financial position;
  - Jason Almerigi, Bath Township's representative and Nicole Fickes from Victor Township expressed frustration that Frontier's plan will do little for their communities and inquired about the possibility of working with Frontier to expanding fiber to more homes in these areas;
  - Mr. Todd Kruse from Frontier introduced himself to the members and stated that he was taking notes and would work with the Townships on this endeavor;
  - Mr. Smiddy reported that Clinton County's application is very strong and emphasized that the primary goal with this project is to expand fiber to home services in Clinton County; the process that has been set in motion in Clinton County is a very positive thing overall.
- **Digital Equity Discussion:**
    - Discussion took place regarding digital equity; the County has received a lot of interest from the local school and libraries and will continue to work with Frontier to expand digital literacy and ensure digital equity in the community;
    - The next Broadband Task Force will likely take place in May.

No action required.

5. **Motion to Adjourn:** Broadband Task Force Chairperson Showers adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.