

John F. Fuentes
County Administrator/Controller

Todd J. Campbell
Deputy Administrator



Cindy Moser
Finance Director

100 E. State Street, Suite 2100
St. Johns, Michigan 48879
(989) 224-5120 • Fax: (989) 224-5102
www.clinton-county.org

**BROADBAND TASK FORCE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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/BEAD UPDATE (ADAM SMIDDY) – NO ATTACHMENT
5	3:50	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
MEETING STARTS PROMPTLY AT CALL TO ORDER TIME LISTED. AGENDA ITEM TIMES MAY VARY		

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 NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

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BROADBAND TASK FORCE

Monday, June 26, 2023

Members Present:

Bob Showers, Chairperson
Bruce DeLong
John Fuentes
Todd Campbell (alternate)
Patti Schafer
Nicole Fickes
Kari Dickenson
Wayne Smith

Staff Present:

Penny Goerge
Craig Thelen
Cindy Moser

Others Present

Adam Smiddy, Guidehouse

Items of Business

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Member Schafer moved, seconded by Member Fickes 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 March 6, 2023 minutes were presented for review and approval.

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

4. **Guidehouse – Broadband Update:** 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 notified the members the MIHI Office released their ROBIN (Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks) Initial Grant Award Recommendations and unfortunately Frontier/Clinton County is not one of the projects recommended to receive funding;
 - Out of 154 applications submitted by 40 unique applicants, 24 projects submitted by 11 applicants were selected for the initial grant recommendations and would connect nearly 106,000 homes, business, and institutions throughout the state to high-speed internet access; more than \$311 million of matching funds have also been committed by the 11 applicants to support the 24 projects which total \$578 million;
 - Mr. Smiddy reviewed the awards that were made, and it was determined that although the County's application was robust, it came down to how locations were classified as "underserved" and "unserved" (other applications had more locations classified as "unserved" in comparison to the County); it was also noted that many other applications had a higher percentage match to maximize points under the program;

- Mr. Smiddy notified the Task Force that he and the Administrative Staff have requested a meeting with Frontier and MIHI to evaluate the application submitted and identify areas of potential improvements and efficiencies that can be made for any future grant applications;
- Discussion followed regarding the County's next steps in light of today's announcement that the State has allocated 1.6 billion dollars for future BEAD (Broadband Access, Equity and Deployment) grant funding;
- The BEAD grant parameters and timeline have not been established yet, but it is the consensus of the Task Force that a potential grant for countywide broadband funding remains a top priority for utilization of a portion of ARPA funds;
- Discussion took place regarding participation by townships in the future grant application processes; Townships will be contacted again to find out if they are interested in participating in this new grant application;
- The next meeting date is to be determined, depending on the future timeline of the potential \$1.6 billion in BEAD grant funding.

No action required.

5. **Motion to Adjourn**: Broadband Task Force Chairperson Showers adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

DRAFT