

Craig Longnecker
County Administrator

Todd Campbell
Deputy Administrator



Cindy Moser
Finance Director

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**BROADBAND TASK FORCE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.
CLINTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ROOM
100 EAST STATE STREET, ST. JOHNS, MI 48879**

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|---|------|---|
| 1 | 3:00 | CALL TO ORDER, ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA |
| 2 | 3:02 | LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENTS |
| 3 | 3:05 | APPROVAL OF MINUTES |
| 4 | 3:15 | BROADBAND INITIATIVE UPDATE (ADAM SMIDDY- GUIDEHOUSE) – NO ATTACHMENT |
| 5 | 4:00 | 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 ADMINISTRATION AT (989)224-5120 OR TDD USERS WITHIN CLINTON COUNTY MAY DIAL 9-1-1 FOR GENERAL COUNTY SERVICES OR USE MICHIGAN RELAY 1-800-649-3777 OR THE NATIONAL RELAY NUMBER OF 7-1-1 NO LATER THAN 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

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BROADBAND TASK FORCE
Thursday, October 27, 2022

Members Present:

Bob Showers, Chairperson
Kam Washburn
Craig Longnecker
Todd Campbell (alternate)
Nicole Fickes
Kari Dickenson
Doug Riley
Joel Haviland (alternate)
Wayne Smith
Patti Schafer

Staff Present:

Penny Goerge
Craig Thelen

Members Excused:

Jason Almerigi
Wayne Petroelje

Others Present

Adam Smiddy, Guidehouse
Allie Herkenroder, Digital Equity Director – Michigan High Speed Internet Office
Miles Roblyer, Bath Charter Township

Items of Business

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Member Showers moved, seconded by Member Washburn, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. **Limited Public Comments:** Broadband Task Force Member Washburn requested limited public comments. There were none.
3. **Election of Officers:** Broadband Task Force Member Washburn opened the nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Broadband Task Force.
 - Member Washburn nominated Bob Showers for Chairperson;
 - Member Washburn called for further nominations; none were offered.

Member Washburn moved, seconded by Member Riley, to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the appointment of Member Showers for Chairperson. Motion carried.

- Member Longnecker nominated Kam Washburn for Vice-Chairperson;
- No other nominations were offered.

Member Longnecker moved, seconded by Member Schafer, to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the appointment of Member Washburn for Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried

4. **Guidehouse Presentation – Clinton County Broadband Initiative:** Broadband Task Force Chairperson Showers introduced Adam Smiddy from Guidehouse to present Clinton County's Broadband Initiative and explain the Task Force's role as the initiative moves forward.
 - Mr. Smiddy provided a brief overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and explained eligible uses for these funds; the Broadband Initiative qualifies as an investment in infrastructure and the focus is on household and businesses without reliable wireline connection;

- The County has designated \$3 million of its ARPA dollars toward broadband and has received support from 18 municipalities within the County which include financial contributions totaling \$1.1 million;
- The cost of the broadband project is likely \$30 million or more; and will be contingent on securing necessary grant funding;
- The members reviewed the Broadband Roadmap and an action plan timeline that is based on combining grant monies needed to facilitate new broadband services and private partnerships necessary to build out new services;
- Administrator Longnecker updated the members regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) process; the County received responses from seven (7) different internet service providers (ISPs) that are currently being evaluated; Administrator Longnecker emphasized it is unusual for county government to engage with the private sector in this fashion, but it is a necessary component for the grants being pursued;
- Once the ISP partners are identified, the County will begin applying for grants; it was noted the County is still waiting for information from the State of Michigan regarding maps and specifics for the grants;
- Mr. Smiddy provided a brief overview and answered questions regarding the three proposed service areas in Clinton County (west, central, and east);
- Mr. Smiddy explained that the purpose of the Broadband Task Force is to advise and provide guidance to decision-makers, promote knowledge-sharing, and coordinate efforts for implementing different elements of the Broadband Strategy and additional broadband initiatives;
- The key responsibilities of the Broadband Task Force include sharing priorities and perspectives from respective organizations, sharing data and knowledge exchange, championing broadband investment, gaining buy-in from key stakeholders, and elevation of important and time-sensitive information to decision-making authorities;
- Ms. Allie Herkenroder, Digital Equity Director at the Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) Office introduced herself to the members and recommended that the County Drain Commissioner and Road Commissioner also be involved in the Task Force meetings, as permitting can be one of the biggest barriers for a smooth roll out;
- Mr. Smiddy discussed the importance of a strong digital equity program; supporting residents with digital inclusion initiatives directly align with positive outcomes for students and the economy; to be effective, investment to increase broadband affordability and adoption will require a multilevel approach: access, connectivity devices and digital literacy training;
- The members discussed the next steps for the Broadband Task Force that include setting priorities for work and outreach opportunities and finding ways to support digital equity projects;
- The next Task Force Meeting will take place on Monday, November 28th at 3:00 PM; at this meeting the members will discuss potential ISP partners and review the maps and grant clarifications that are anticipated to be released by the State of Michigan soon.

No action required.

5. **Motion to Adjourn:** Broadband Task Force Chairperson Showers adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.