



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:00 P.M.

Willowbank Office Building
420 Holmes Street, Room 144
Bellefonte, PA 16823

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The public work session of the Board of Commissioners was convened at 2:06 PM by Chair of the Board Mark Higgins.

In attendance were Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Amber Concepcion, Administrator John Franek Jr. and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Ray Stolinas.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. BROADBAND FUNDING

A. Centre County's Broadband project contributions

Commissioner Higgins stated we have four potential projects to consider for funding. Administrator John Franek Jr. stated that he met with a Centre WISP representative yesterday per the Boards' request. Based on the last ARPA meeting, there was support from the Board for giving the two Comcast projects, Curtin/Liberty \$10,000 and Burnside/Snow Shoe \$5,000 as County contributions.

John stated for the 15% of the required 25% match, Centre WISP still felt comfortable to advance the projects if the County could support them at 10% of the total project amount. John stated the amounts to support Centre WISP at 10% to the County would be \$163,000 for the Haines/Penn Project and \$303,000 for the Boggs/Union Project, for a total not to exceed \$466,000 for the County's contribution for both projects for Centre WISP.

Ray stated the Centre WISP projects would serve 854 locations for the Boggs/Union project and serve 342 locations for the Haines/Penn Project. The Haines/Penn Project would be about \$4,600 per address and the Boggs/Union would be about \$3,500 per address.

Ray stated the Comcast project for Curtin/Liberty would serve 1,088 locations and Burnside/Snow Shoe project would serve 863 locations.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to propose award-contingent, non-committed County contributions to Comcast and Centre WISP for proposed Broadband Deployment Projects in the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority's Capital Projects Fund/Broadband Infrastructure Program grant application solicitation for the following projects: Centre Wisp not to exceed \$466,000 and \$10,000 towards Comcast for Curtin/Liberty and \$5,000 towards Comcast for the Burnside/Snow Shoe project.

B. Centre County's letters of support

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to submit letters of support for Comcast's and Centre WISP's proposed Broadband Deployment Projects in the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority's Capital Projects Fund/Broadband Infrastructure Program grant application solicitation for Centre Wisp's proposed projects of Haines/Penn and Boggs/Union and for Comcast's Curtin/Liberty and Burnside/Snow Shoe proposed Projects.

IV. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Concepcion, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously adjourn the meeting at 2:41 PM.

ATTEST: _____

John Franek Jr.

Administrator