

**KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
BROADBAND AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

June 3, 2019

Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar

Present: Mark Boesch, Donna Boonstra, Dean Bouta, Bruce DeBlic, Scott Froemming, Roger Imdieke, Michelle Marotzke, Les Nelson, Rollie Nissen, Gregg Price and Donn Winckler

Excused: Brian Mort, Ramsey Schaffnit, Connie Schmoll and David Sisser

Guest: Glenn Otteson, Vice President, Communication Network Engineering, Inc.

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Chairperson Mark Boesch called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

MINUTES—

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Nelson, SECONDED BY Roger Imdieke, to approve the Minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting as emailed. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Township projects. Chair Boesch stated three townships are interested in doing a broadband project—Dovre, Mamre and St. Johns. Arvig provided an estimate of \$18,740 for Compass Consultants, Inc. to do an engineering study for the three townships. Connie Schmoll sent a letter on May 31st to each of the townships and Kandiyohi County informing them if they wish to participate in a study, the cost would be \$4,685 per entity. The letter also indicates if one or more of the four potential partners declines, the cost per participant would increase. It was stated most townships have reserved funds that could be used for this purpose.

[Glenn Otteson joined the meeting.]

It is not known if the entire county will be eventually pursued or just the three townships that have shown an immediate interest. Roger Imdieke questioned if the other townships have shown any interest. Glenn Otteson, Vice President of Communication Network Engineering, Inc. (CNE), introduced himself followed by self introductions. Otteson stated CNE did the feasibility study when the county applied for the state Border-to-Border grant and he is willing to assist with a new study. Otteson suggested this committee could approach other providers, such as Hanson Communications and Farmers Mutual Federated Telephone; he feels they would be very receptive

to doing a project in the county. It was Otteson's opinion that a new study is not necessary as the entire county was done in the last study. Chair Boeschen gave an update on the interest by the four townships. Donna Boonstra stated when previously contacted Hanson Communications was only interested in doing certain areas. It was reported that Hanson Communications is doing a project in Pope County. Dean Bouta volunteered to contact Bruce Hanson of Hanson Communications, along with Otteson.

Imdieke questioned how TDS's new promotion will affect users. It was felt any marketing will need to address other provider's services. Imdieke reported he received contact from a realtor questioning if the Games Lake area has high-speed broadband as an individual who does research for the Mayo Clinic was interested in moving into that area and needs high-speed broadband to telecommute. Bouta recommended getting a statement from the homeowner or realtor about the loss of this sale due to no broadband. Imdieke stated he sent a letter to the editor to local papers and legislators. Following his letter he was contacted by a TDS representative, who requested he contact them; he attempted to call, but has not received a return call.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Subcommittee. The Legislative Subcommittee consisting of Chair Boeschen, Boonstra, Imdieke, Brian Mort, Rollie Nissen and Donn Winckler has not yet met, but will soon.

2020 budget. Chair Boeschen presented a proposed budget for 2020 that was put together by Schmoll (see attached).

IT WAS MOVED BY Roger Imdieke, SECONDED BY Michelle Marotzke, to adopt the 2020 budget for the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission Broadband and Advanced Technology Committee as presented.

MOTION CARRIED.

Next meeting. Chair Boeschen stated the next meeting date is July 1 and asked if the date will be an issue for the majority. By consensus, the meeting date will be kept on July 1.

REPORTS

Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition/Legislative Update. Chair Boeschen reported the legislature approved \$20 million for the broadband grant program for each of the next two years. Bouta questioned if the legislators indicated why there was no policy change for the grant process. Chair Boeschen stated no one wanted to bring up the issue, including the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition—they just wanted to focus on funding. Discussion was held on the state grant requirements. Boeschen recommended this committee followup with Frontier Communications to see if it is doing what it promised to do in the county.

At this time, the committee is waiting for the three townships to make a decision. The state grant deadline is September 13, 2019. Attorney Robert Ruppe was available at one of the township

meetings and discussed funding options for a broadband project. Chair Boeschen commented it will be a challenge to overcome obstacles, such as convincing a resident as to why they need broadband. It was the consensus that there definitely has to be education with any new project.

Imdieke contacted realtor Kelly Baeth and received a return call from his partner, who stated the lack of broadband is affecting sales, but they have not documented it. Chair Boeschen suggested obtaining letters of support for a project due to the loss of sales. Chair Boeschen stated Arvig's time line for the engineering study was four weeks to perform the work and two to three weeks to get it scheduled. Froemming questioned if the message was made clear to the townships and Kandiyohi County about the timing of a project and applying for a grant.

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business,

IT WAS MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING—The next committee meeting is **12 noon, Monday, July 1, 2019** at the Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building, Willmar.



	Proposed 2020	As of 4/30/2019	2019 Budget	2018 Actuals (rounded)	2017 Actuals (rounded)
REVENUES					
Total Revenues	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Townships fees toward postage	\$ 450				
EXPENSES					
COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
Broadband and Advanced Technology					
Conferences/Seminars/Trainings	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500		\$ 255
Marketing (creation of flyers and ads to support project)	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 565	\$ 2,587
Meals/Meeting Refreshments	\$ 1,000	\$ 418	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,265	\$ 1,452
Mileage/Travel (Extra travel funds to support door knocking)	\$ 800	\$ 12	\$ 550	\$ 530	\$ 776
Postage (postage for a mailing to residents of the townships)	\$ 500	\$ 3	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 52
Printing, copying & publishing (flyers, postcard, notices)	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 350	\$ -	\$ 508
Professional Services		\$ -			
General Administrative Services	\$ 1,000	\$ 410	\$ 1,030	\$ 1,619	\$ 2,932
Total Broadband and Advanced Technology Committee Expenses	\$ 5,300	\$ 842	\$ 3,680	\$ 3,979	\$ 8,562