

CHIPPEWA COUNTY**COUNTY BOARD****SPECIAL MEETING****JULY 20, 2021****CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302****6:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Dean Gullickson	Chippewa County	District 7 (Chair)	Present	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 2 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
Harold Steele	Chippewa County	District 1	Present	
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3	Present	
Lee McMenamin	Chippewa County	District 4	Present	
Tom Thornton	Chippewa County	District 5	Present	
Don Hauser	Chippewa County	District 6	Present	
James Mickelson	Chippewa County	District 8	Absent	
Mechele Shipman	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	
Charlene Kervina	Chippewa County	District 10	Present	
David Eisenhuth	Chippewa County	District 11	Present	
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 12	Present	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 13	Present	
Chuck Hull	Chippewa County	District 14	Absent	
Ronald McGill	Chippewa County	District 15	Present	

Others present were Randy Scholz, Traci Bremness, Todd Pauls, Jaclyn Sadler, Nicholas Wu, Charlie Walker, Jim Kusilek, Ryan Hartzell, Kent Kilma

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3
SECONDER:	Lee McMenamin, District 4
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, McMenamin, Thornton, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt, McGill
ABSENT:	Mickelson, Hull

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda.

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

July 20, 2021
6:00 PM

7. REPORTS

No reports given.

A. County Administrator Review and Update

B. Department Reports

C. General Reports

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Res. 19-21: Resolution to Approve Chippewa County American Rescue Plan Act Guidelines and Procedure for Allocating ARPA Funds – Randy Scholz
County Administrator, Randy Scholz, explained the guidelines and procedure for allocating ARPA funds.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
SECONDER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, McMenamin, Thornton, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt, McGill
ABSENT:	Mickelson, Hull

2. Res. 20-21: Resolution to Support the Grant Application of 24/7 Telcom, Inc. to Help Qualify for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of Wisconsin – Randy Scholz/Jim Kusilek
County Administrator, Randy Scholz, and Jim Kusilek covered the grant application for 24/7 Telcom.

RESULT:	APPROVED [12 TO 1]
MOVER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
SECONDER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, McMenamin, Thornton, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt
NAYS:	McGill
ABSENT:	Mickelson, Hull

3. Res. 21-21: Resolution to Support the Grant Application of Ntera, LLC to Help Qualify for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of Wisconsin – Randy Scholz/Russ Falkenberg
Ryan Hartzell explained the grant application for Ntera, LLC.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [12 TO 1]
MOVER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
SECONDER:	Kari Ives, District 12
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, McMenamin, Thornton, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt
NAYS:	McGill
ABSENT:	Mickelson, Hull

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

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4. Res. 22-21: Resolution to Support the Grant Application of Bloomer Telephone Company to Help Qualify for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of Wisconsin – Randy Scholz/Kent Kilma
Kent Kilma explained the grant application for Bloomer Telephone Company.

RESULT:	APPROVED [11 TO 2]
MOVER:	Lee McMenamin, District 4
SECONDER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Thornton, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt
NAYS:	McMenamin, McGill
ABSENT:	Mickelson, Hull

9. ADJOURN

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3
SECONDER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, McMenamin, Thornton, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt, McGill
ABSENT:	Mickelson, Hull

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

Resolution No. 19-21

**RESOLUTION APPROVING GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR
ALLOCATING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA) FUNDS
FOR CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

1 Passage of this resolution will adopt the attached *Guidelines & Procedures for Allocating*
2 *ARPA Funds*. These guidelines and procedures are intended to ensure that the use of American
3 Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds is consistent with U. S. Treasury rules on the use of the
4 ARPA funds. The purpose of the document is also to have the County Board approve the
5 criteria that Chippewa County will follow for utilizing the \$12,559,059 of ARPA funds that
6 Chippewa County will receive.

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA) FUNDS FOR CHIPPEWA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Pan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package that was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County is to receive approximately \$12.5 million dollars of the \$1.9 trillion allocated; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County received the first transaction of \$6,279,529.50 on May 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, ARPA has four allowable areas of usage; and

WHEREAS, one area of allowable usage of ARPA funding is to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus disease or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, a second area of allowable usage of ARPA funding is to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county who are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work; and

WHEREAS, a third area of allowable usage of ARPA funding is for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county prior to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the fourth area of allowable usage of ARPA funding is to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, the U.S. Treasury issued an Interim Final Rule on the use of ARPA funds and counties are still waiting for additional guidance on what is considered an “allowable expense”; and

WHEREAS, it is important to note that if ARPA funds are spent on projects that are not considered "allowable expenses" then the funds will need to be paid back; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to approve the attached document titled "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING ARPA FUNDS"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said document is to have the County Board approve the criteria that Chippewa County will follow for utilizing ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, this document also identifies the procedures that Chippewa County will use to allocate the funds; and

WHEREAS, the criteria established by the County Board will need to be in compliance with the U. S. Treasury guidelines; and

WHEREAS, it will be the responsibility of the County Administrator to ensure that the criteria complies with U.S. Treasury guidelines;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the attached document titled "AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING ARPA FUNDS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board approves the expenditure of the funding necessary for the Chippewa County Administrator to ensure that Chippewa County is utilizing ARPA funds for qualified expenses and is in compliance with the U. S. Treasury guidelines for the use of ARPA funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said expenditures, such as costs for review by outside auditors or outside legal counsel, shall come from the ARPA funds allocated to Chippewa County.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

2021 Estimated costs to ensure compliance with ARPA funding rules, \$20,000

Any future costs will be funded as part of the normal budget process

07/20/2021 Executive Committee

Approved as to Form:



Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/14/2021



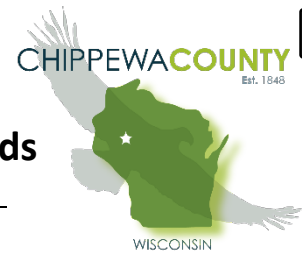
Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

7/14/2021



Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/14/2021



American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Guidelines & Procedures for Allocating (ARPA) Funds

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package that was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. The current estimate for Chippewa County to receive is \$12.5 million.

On May 19, 2021, Chippewa County received the first transaction of \$6,279,529.50. Chippewa County will receive the second half of the funds in May 2022. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has four allowable areas of usage:

- “(A) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- “(B) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- “(C) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county prior to the emergency; or
- “(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

On May 10, 2021, the U. S. Treasury issued an Interim Final Rule and counties are still waiting for additional guidance on what is considered an “allowable expense”. It is important to note that if the funds are spent on projects that are not considered “allowable expenses” then the funds will need to be repaid.

Purpose of this Policy Document

The purpose of this document is to have the County Board approve the criteria that Chippewa County will follow for utilizing ARPA funds. The criteria established by the County Board will need to be in compliance with the U. S. Treasury guidelines. The document will also identify the procedures that Chippewa County will use to allocate the funds.

Process for Establishing and Approving the Criteria for Utilizing ARPA Funds

The County Administrator will ensure the criteria complies with U. S. Treasury guidelines and will provide an initial recommendation to the Executive Committee in a report form to review and discuss. The Executive Committee will then provide a recommendation to the County Board to receive additional input. There could be consensus votes taken at both meetings, but nothing will be final, until a resolution is passed by the Executive Committee and ultimately by the County Board.

County Administrator's Recommendation on Criteria for Utilizing ARPA Funds

1. The funds may be allocated for projects that will/could reduce future operational cost.
2. The funds may be allocated for projects that are currently in Chippewa County's five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or projects that are similar.
3. The funds may be allocated for projects that will promote future economic growth in Chippewa County.
4. The funds should never be allocated in a way that will increase future operational cost.

County Administrator's Recommendation on the Procedures to Allocate Funds

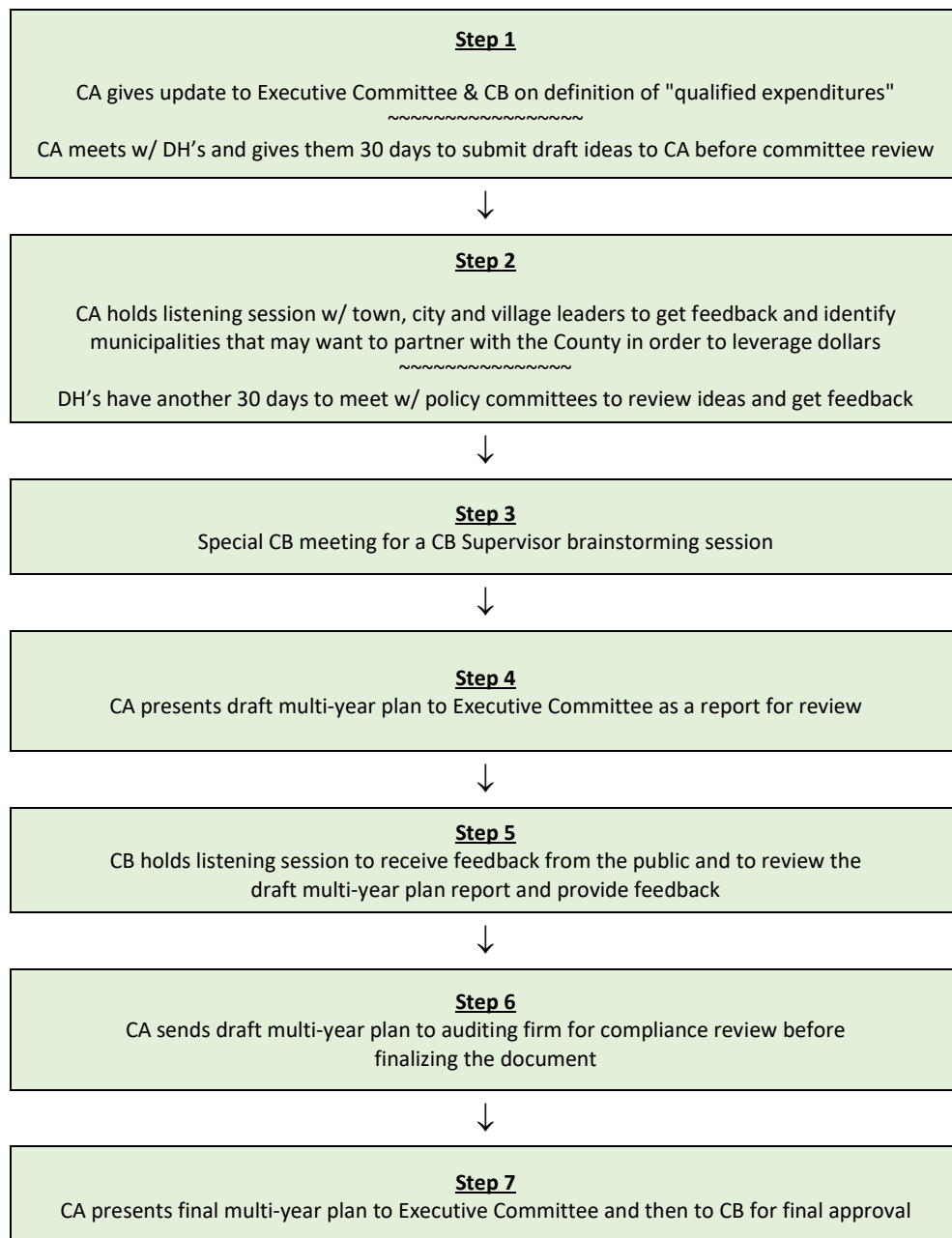
1. As soon as the final rule is released and the County Administrator has a thorough understanding of the definition for "qualified expenditures" the County Administrator will give a report to the Executive Committee and to the full County Board. The report will cover the current understanding of qualified expenditures.

During that same timeframe, the County Administrator will have a meeting with the Department Heads to explain the final rule and definition of qualified expenditures.

- The Department Heads will be given thirty-days (30) to submit draft ideas to the County Administrator via the Chippewa County ARPA Justification Form, before committee review, of potential projects that may be considered qualified expenditures. At this time the ideas only need to be concepts, not complete projects.
2. The County Administrator will hold a listening sessions with town, city and village leaders to review the guidelines and get input and feedback on projects they may be considering, and to identify municipalities that may want to partner with Chippewa County in order to leverage the ARPA dollars. County Board Supervisors will be invited to attend this listening session, but no formal action will be taken.
 - The Department Heads will be given another thirty-days (30) to review ideas with the policy committee for feedback before submitting their final recommendations to the County Administrator.
 3. The County Administrator will request to have a special County Board meeting for a brainstorming session so County Board Supervisors can provide additional feedback regarding items they would like to see the funds spent on. No ideas will be eliminated, unless it is known the ideas do not qualify as acceptable expenditures according to the U. S. Treasury guidelines.
 4. After receiving feedback from everyone, the County Administrator will prepare a draft multi-year plan in a format similar to the Capital Improvement Plan and present it to the Executive Committee for review, discussion, and approval to forward the draft plan to the County Board for consideration.
 5. The County Board will hold a listening session to receive feedback from the public and to review the draft multi-year plan report and provide feedback. There may be consensus votes taken at the meeting, but nothing is formally approved during this meeting(s).

6. The County Administrator will send the draft multi-year plan to the auditing firm for a compliance review before finalizing the document.
7. The County Administrator will present a multi-year plan to the Executive Committee and then to the County Board for final approval. This will be done annually in the form of a resolution. In addition, the County Board will approve resolutions annually for the projects that are scheduled for the next budget year.
8. The financial updates for ARPA funds will be included with the County financial reports that are provided by the Finance Director to the County Board on a quarterly basis.

Procedures to Allocate ARPA Funds





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No. 20-21

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF 24/7 TELCOM, INC. TO HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

1 Passage of this resolution will formally support Governor Tony Evers' initiative to
2 allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be used
3 for the expansion of high-speed broadband internet to the unserved and underserved areas of
4 the State of Wisconsin. The State Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission (PSC)
5 coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the
6 Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Applications must be submitted to the PSC by July 27,
7 2021 to obtain these grant funds.

8 To expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved
9 areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that
10 will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal. As a result, local Telcos in
11 Chippewa County have approached the local municipalities that they serve as well as Chippewa
12 County to request matching funds as part of the application process to help qualify for grant
13 funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Chippewa County believes that
14 providing matching funding for the Telcos' grant applications is an eligible expenditure that
15 would be allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local
16 Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act "Investments in
17 Infrastructure." Chippewa County has already received about 50% of that funding from the
18 Federal Government and any matching funds for the Telcos' grant applications for broadband
19 expansion would come from the County's ARPA funds.

20 The County was approached by three Chippewa County Telcos to provide match funds
21 for their grant applications. This resolution addresses the request of 24/7 Telcom, Inc., which is
22 requesting that Chippewa County match the contributions of the Towns of Howard and
23 Wheaton. The Town of Howard has agreed to provide \$60,000 of matching funds and the Town
24 of Wheaton has agreed to provide \$279,549 of matching funds, for a total of \$339,549. 24/7
25 Telcom, Inc., has requested that Chippewa County match the \$339,549 that the Towns have
26 agreed to contribute.

27 Passage of this resolution will also approve that match request and commit \$339,549 of

28 ARPA funds that the County received from the Federal Government. 24/7 Telcom, Inc., will be
29 submitting an application for a broadband expansion project that would serve 609 locations at
30 a total project cost of \$3,902,530. 24/7 Telcom, Inc., will be requesting that the State of
31 Wisconsin provide grant funds of \$1,951,265 and 24/7 Telcom, Inc., would therefore fund
32 \$1,272,167 of the total project cost.

33

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF 24/7 TELCOM, INC. TO HELP QUALIFY
FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers has directed the Public Service Commission (PSC) to allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be dedicated to expanding high-speed broadband internet across the state; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to begin the process of providing high-speed broadband access to all citizens of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the State Broadband Office at the PSC coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant program helps providers find a path to return on investment in areas of the state that are challenging to serve due to population density or geography; and

WHEREAS, to expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County supports Governor Evers' initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet access in the State of Wisconsin and supports the local Telcos' efforts to obtain the available State funding to meet the Governor's initiative; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that providing matching funding for Telcos to help qualify for Broadband Expansion Grant funding is an eligible expenditure allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes this eligible expenditure falls under "Investments in Infrastructure" in the Interim Final Rule released by the Department of US Treasury; and

WHEREAS, in the Interim Final Rule under Investments in Infrastructure it states "To assist in meeting the critical need for investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provide funds to State, Local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in these sectors"; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released Version 1.0 of Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, under Expenditure Categories in said guide under 5: Infrastructure, 5.17 Broadband: Other projects is an eligible category; and

WHEREAS, to help qualify for this State funding, applicants for the grants should provide matching funds for their broadband expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Telco, 24/7 Telcom, Inc., is proposing that the State of Wisconsin provide \$1,951,265 of its total project cost of \$3,902,530 and that 24/7 Telcom, Inc. would provide \$1,272,167 in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Wheaton has agreed to contribute \$279,549 and the Town of Howard has agreed to contribute \$60,000 toward this expansion project; and

WHEREAS, 24/7 Telcom, Inc. is requesting that Chippewa County match the contributions of the Towns of Wheaton and Howard, in the amount of \$339,549 to assist in the broadband expansion in Chippewa County; and

WHEREAS, the total number of locations that would be served by this broadband expansion would be 609; and

WHEREAS, applications for this funding are due by July 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that expansion of high-speed broadband internet access throughout Chippewa County is key to the economic vitality of the County and therefore providing financial assistance to 24/7 Telcom, Inc. to qualify for this ARPA funding is necessary and appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby support Governor Evers' \$100 million initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and underserved in Wisconsin, and more particularly in Chippewa County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County shall provide \$339,549 in matching funds for the 24/7 Telcom, Inc., grant application.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,902,530.00
Total Grant Request	\$1,951,265.00
Total 24/7 Telcom, Inc. Contribution	\$1,272,167.00
Total Contribution of Towns	\$339,549.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$339,549.00

(Chippewa County's contribution will be utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funding.)

122
123 **07/20/2021 Executive Committee**
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Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/12/2021

Lori Zwiefelhofer

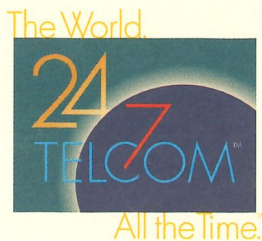
Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

7/12/2021

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/12/2021



www.24-7telcom.com

Jim Kusilek
Operations Manager – 24-7 Telcom, Inc.
912 Crescent St.
Menomonie, WI 54751
7/8/2021

Randy Scholz
County Administrator – Chippewa County
711 N. Bridge St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
7/8/2021

Dear Randy Scholz:

24-7 Telcom, Inc. ("24-7 Telcom") intends to build Fiber to the Home ("FTTH") to approximately 609 locations in the Towns of Wheaton and Howard in Chippewa County, at a cost of approximately \$3,902,530.00. The Town of Wheaton and Town of Howard have entered into a partnership agreement with 24-7 Telcom. The Town of Wheaton has committed to contribute \$279,549.00, which is equal to 100% of its American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funds. The Town of Howard has also committed to contribute \$60,000.00 of its \$85,200.00 available ARPA funds.

24-7 Telcom will submit a State of Wisconsin ARPA Broadband Access Grant Application for each project requesting 50% of the total cost of each project. The remaining balance will be paid by 24-7 Telcom, Town of Wheaton, and Chippewa County for the Wheaton project. The remaining balance will be paid by 24-7 Telcom, Town of Howard, and Chippewa County for the Howard project. The total grant request for the 2 projects combined will be \$1,951,265.00. A breakdown of the project totals is attached along with a map of the projects.

We are asking Chippewa County to use a portion of its ARPA funds to match the Town of Wheaton's contribution of \$279,549.00.00 and the Town of Howard's contribution of \$60,000.00 for these Projects.

Sincerely,

Jim Kusilek

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Kusilek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Operations Manager – 24-7 Telcom, Inc.

Town of Wheaton FTTH Project

Total Cost of Project	\$2,843,260.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$279,549.00
Total Locations	478

WHEATON PROJECT FUNDING

PSC Grant Request	\$1,421,630.00
24-7 Telcom's Contribution	\$862,532.00
Town of Wheaton Contribution	\$279,549.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$279,549.00
	\$2,843,260.00

Town of Howard FTTH Project

Total Cost of Project	\$1,059,270.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$85,200.00
Total Locations	131

HOWARD PROJECT FUNDING

PSC Grant Request	\$529,635.00
24-7 Telcom's Contribution	\$409,635.00
Town of Howard Contribution	\$60,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$60,000.00
	\$1,059,270.00

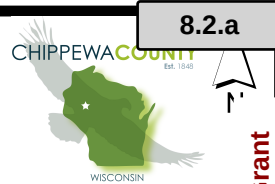
TOTALS

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,902,530.00
Total Grant Request	\$1,951,265.00
Total 24-7 Telcom Contribution	\$1,272,167.00
Total Town's Contribution	\$339,549.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$339,549.00
Total Locations	609

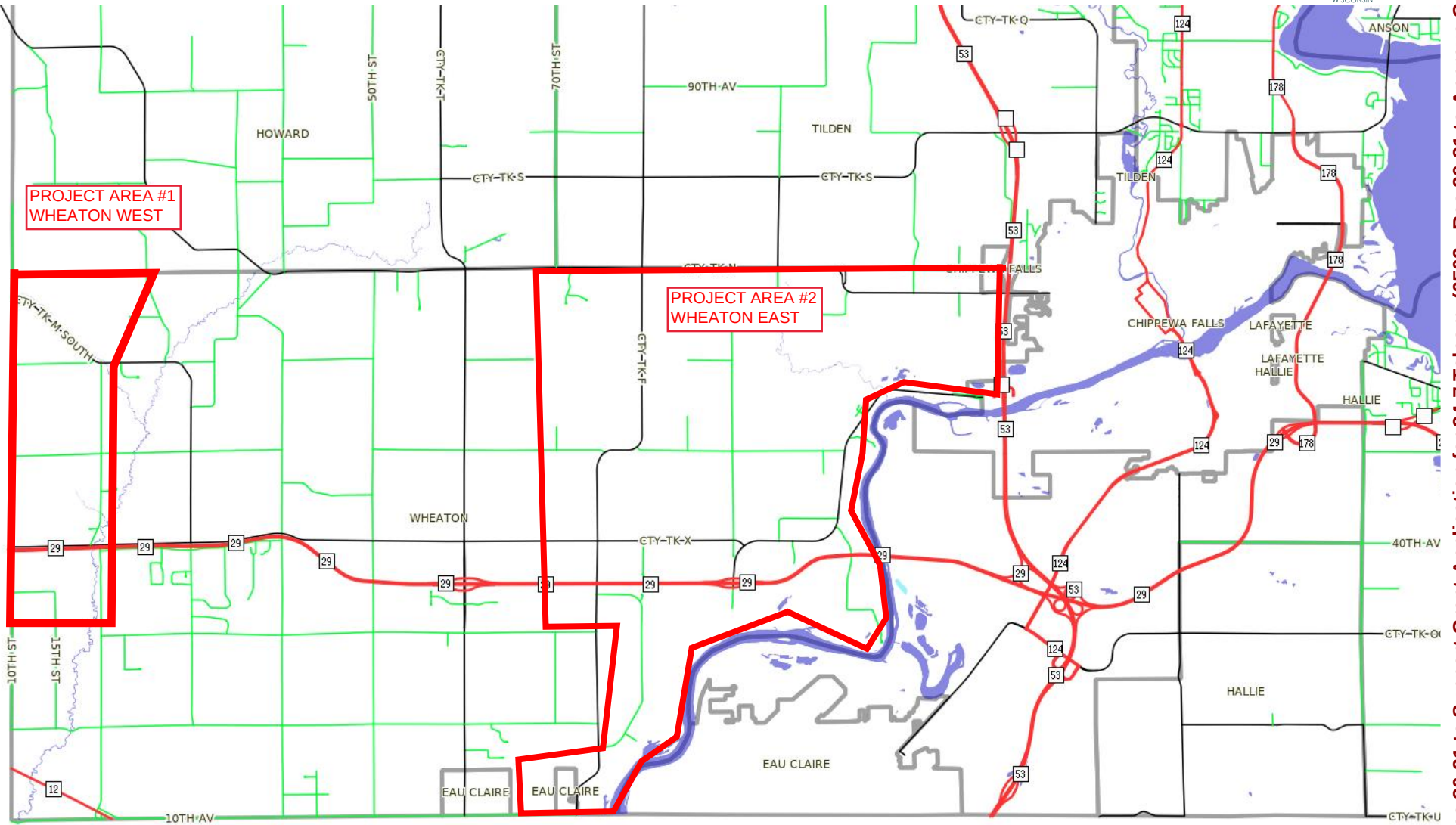
Map

Printed 05/28/2021

Scale = 1:8369'



8.2.a



Disclaimer: This map is a compilation of records as they appear in the Chippewa County Offices affecting the area shown and is to be used only for reference purposes.

HOWARD

Printed 06/03/2021

Scale = 1:8506'

24-7 TELCOM, INC.
TOWN OF HOWARD PROJECT
6/3/2021

PROJECT AREA #1

PROJECT AREA #2

Disclaimer: This map is a compilation of records as they appear in the Chippewa County Offices affecting the area shown and is to be used only for reference purposes.

Packet Pg. 19

Attachment: Res 20-21 to Support Grant Application for 24-7 Telcom (6503 : Res 20-21 to Approve Grant

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REVISED PROPOSAL 07-19-2021 – CHANGES HIGHLIGHTED
STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No. 21-21

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF NTERA, LLC TO
HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE
STATE OF WISCONSIN**

Passage of this resolution will formally support Governor Tony Evers' initiative to allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be used for the expansion of high-speed broadband internet to the unserved and underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin. The State Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission (PSC) coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Applications must be submitted to the PSC by July 27, 2021 to obtain these grant funds.

To expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal. As a result, local Telcos in Chippewa County have approached the local municipalities that they serve as well as Chippewa County to request matching funds as part of the application process to help qualify for grant funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Chippewa County believes that providing matching funding for the Telcos' grant applications is an eligible expenditure that would be allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act "Investments in Infrastructure." Chippewa County has already received about 50% of that funding from the Federal Government and any matching funds for the Telcos' grant applications for broadband expansion would come from the County's ARPA funds.

The County was approached by three Chippewa County Telcos to provide match funds for their grant applications. This resolution addresses the request of Ntera, LLC which is requesting that Chippewa County ~~match the contributions of the~~ contribute along with the following Towns, of Towns of Lake Holcombe, Ruby, Cleveland, Estella, Colburn, Arthur, Goetz, Delmar, Edson, and Sigel. ~~The Town of Lake Holcombe has agreed to provide \$45,000 of matching funds. The Town of Ruby has agreed to provide \$32,500 of matching funds. The Town of Cleveland has agreed to provide \$8,750 of matching funds. The Town of Estella has~~

27 ~~agreed to provide \$21,250 of matching funds. The Town of Colburn has agreed to provide~~
 28 ~~\$27,500 of matching funds. The Town of Arthur has agreed to provide \$82,688.16 of matching~~
 29 ~~funds.~~ The Town of Goetz has agreed to provide ~~\$83,211.50~~ 10,000 of matching funds. The
 30 Town of Sigel has agreed to provide ~~\$114,507.40~~ 10,000 of matching funds. The Town of
 31 Delmar has agreed to provide \$15,000 of matching funds. The Town of Edson has agreed to
 32 provide \$10,000 of matching funds These ~~eight-four~~ Towns that are served by Ntera, LLC have
 33 agreed to provide a total of ~~\$415,407.06~~ 45,000 of matching funds for the Ntera, LLC expansion
 34 project. Ntera, LLC has requested that Chippewa County ~~match the provide~~ \$415,407.06
 35 531,657.06 ~~that these Towns have agreed to contribute~~, as part of its grant application.

36 Passage of this resolution will also approve that match request and commit ~~\$415,407.06~~
 37 531,657.06 of ARPA funds that the County received from the Federal Government. Ntera, LLC
 38 will be submitting an application for a broadband expansion project that would serve ~~411~~ 481
 39 locations at a total project cost of \$3, ~~082,500~~ 607,500. Ntera, LLC will be requesting that the
 40 State of Wisconsin provide grant funds of \$1, ~~541,250~~ 803,750 and Ntera, LLC would therefore
 41 fund ~~\$710,435.88~~ 1,227,092.94 of the total project cost.

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF NTERA, LLC TO HELP QUALIFY FOR
BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers has directed the Public Service Commission (PSC) to allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be dedicated to expanding high-speed broadband internet across the state; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to begin the process of providing high-speed broadband access to all citizens of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the State Broadband Office at the PSC coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant program helps providers find a path to return on investment in areas of the state that are challenging to serve due to population density or geography; and

WHEREAS, to expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County supports Governor Evers' initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet access in the State of Wisconsin and supports the local Telcos' efforts to obtain the available State funding to meet the Governor's initiative; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that providing matching funding for Telcos to help qualify for Broadband Expansion Grant funding is an eligible expenditure allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes this eligible expenditure falls under "Investments in Infrastructure" in the Interim Final Rule released by the Department of US Treasury; and

WHEREAS, in the Interim Final Rule under Investments in Infrastructure it states "To assist in meeting the critical need for investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provide funds to State, Local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in these sectors"; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released Version 1.0 of Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, under Expenditure Categories in said guide under 5: Infrastructure, 5.17 Broadband: Other projects is an eligible category; and

WHEREAS, to help qualify for this State funding, applicants for the grants should provide matching funds for their broadband expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Telco, Ntera, LLC is proposing that the State of Wisconsin provide \$1,~~541,250~~803,750 of its total project cost of \$3,~~082,500~~607,500 and that Ntera, LLC would provide \$~~710,435.88~~1,227,092.94 in funding; and

WHEREAS, ~~the Town of Lake Holcombe has agreed to contribute \$45,000 of matching funds, the Town of Ruby has agreed to contribute \$32,500 of matching funds, the Town of Cleveland has agreed to contribute \$8,750 of matching funds, the Town of Estella has agreed to contribute \$21,250 of matching funds, the Town of Colburn has agreed to contribute \$27,500 of matching funds, the Town of Arthur has agreed to contribute 82,688.16 of matching funds,~~ the Town of Goetz has agreed to contribute ~~\$83,211.50~~10,000 of matching funds, ~~the Town of Delmar has agreed to provide \$15,000 of matching funds, the Town of Edson has agreed to provide \$10,000 of matching funds,~~ and the Town of Sigel has agreed to contribute \$~~114,507.40~~10,000 of matching funds; and

WHEREAS, Ntera, LLC is requesting that Chippewa County ~~match the total contributions of the Towns of Lake Holcombe, Ruby, Cleveland, Estella, Colburn, Aurthur, Goetz, and Sigel in the amount of provide~~ \$~~415,407.06~~531,657.06 to assist in the broadband expansion in Chippewa County; and

WHEREAS, the total number of locations that would be served by this broadband expansion would be ~~411~~481; and

WHEREAS, applications for this funding are due by July 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that expansion of high-speed broadband internet access throughout Chippewa County is key to the economic vitality of the County and therefore providing financial assistance to Ntera, LLC to qualify for this ARPA funding is necessary and appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby support Governor Evers' \$100 million initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and underserved in Wisconsin, and more particularly in Chippewa County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County shall provide \$~~415,407.06~~531,657.06 in matching funds for the Ntera, LLC grant application.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total Project Cost	\$3, 082,500 <u>607,500.00</u>
Total Grant Request	\$1, 541,250 <u>803,750.00</u>
Total Ntera, LLC Contribution	\$710,435.88 <u>\$1,227,092.94</u>
Total Contribution of Towns	\$415,407.06 <u>\$5,000.00</u>
Total Contribution of Chippewa County	\$415,407.06 <u>\$531,657.06</u>
(Chippewa County's Contribution will be utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funds.)	

07/20/2021 Executive Committee

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls
Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/12/2021

Lori Zwiefelhofer
Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

7/12/2021

Randy B. Scholz
Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/13/2021



Department of Administration

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

July 19, 2021

TO: County Board Supervisors

FR: Randy Scholz

RE: Revised Proposal from Ntera LLC

In the agenda packet you will find a resolution and attachments for Ntera LLC that were prepared last week. After the agenda packet was posted, Ntera LLC contacted me and indicated they had not yet secured funding/commitment from the towns. So the document that is in the agenda packet is based on what they wanted to receive from the towns.

Since that time Ntera LLC has secured some commitment from the towns. This morning, we received revised attachments from Ntera LLC that are based off the new commitment. Since the committee and County Board meetings are tomorrow, we attached this revised proposal so you can all refer to it at the meeting as this is what the reps will be asking for. However, the actual resolution has not been updated to reflect this revised proposal. We can display a resolution at the meeting that shows the changes highlighted so it's easier for you to consider when you take action.

*** This memo and attachments were updated again on 07/19/2021 at 3:00 p.m.***

17 July 2021

Randy –

Attached please find our revised proposal. We received some commitment from the Towns of Delmar, Edson, Goetz & Sigel. The other towns were noncommittal primarily due to the fact that the final rule has not yet been written.

The revised proposal increases Ntera's vesting in the projects significantly. As you can see we are sincere in our efforts to continue to expand and deliver fiber to the home in Chippewa County.

It is imperative we receive a reply from the County as soon as possible after the meeting on the 20th so we may begin the laborious process of constructing the PSC grant applications.

Thank you again for your prompt replies to our inquiries and the feedback you have provided.

Respectfully,

- Russ

19 July 2021

Chippewa County Board Members
Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Board Members,

Please review the documentation pertaining to the Ntera FTTH projects for the townships of Lake Holcombe, Ruby, Cleveland, Estella, Colburn, Arthur, Goetz, Edson, Delmar, and Sigel. Along with this cover letter, we have included the project contributions for the organizations and a map showing the locations of the projects. Please note we did visit with the Town of Anson as well.

The break down of funds are as follows.

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,607,500.00
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,803,750.00
Total Ntera Contribution	\$1,227,092.94
Total Town's Contribution	\$45,000.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$531,657.06
Total Locations	481

Ntera, LLC is owned equally by Chippewa Valley Satellite, a subsidiary of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, and Citizens Connected. Both parent companies are Cooperatives, and have equal ownership in Ntera, LLC.

In early 2017 the parent companies met with the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation and discussions that started in that meeting lead to the formation of Ntera, LLC. There was a need to bring broadband to the rural areas of Chippewa County and surrounding areas that was not being met by the current providers. By January 2018 the first Ntera customer was connected in the Town of Lake Holcombe.

Without any outside assistance, Ntera has brought Internet, Video, and Voice to over 500 customers. The first project was the Town of Lake Holcombe. Expansion projects were then added for the southern shores of Lake Holcombe, and then on to the northern shores, continuing north to parts of southern Rusk County.

Considering Ntera was a new start-up a few short years ago, Ntera's take rate has been over a rewarding 50%, and the customer count continues to increase daily.

Ntera started with the most densely populated, unserved and underserved areas of the county to generate a revenue stream and are now expanding to less populated areas.

We have received State PSC Grants, in addition to Federal ReConnect funds. These funds have allowed us to expand into more rural areas, a commitment of our original charter. Ntera has grown since its inception. Currently Ntera serves over 1,000 customers.

Ntera has completed the requirements of the State PSC Grant that was received in 2019 in the Town of Birch Creek. The State PSC Grants received in 2020 have been constructed and are being cut into service a year ahead of schedule. Ntera has met or exceeded the requirements of the State PSC Grants received to date and has continued to expand into more rural communities.

All Ntera broadband is FTTH, based on proven Calix GPON technology.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

The Team at Ntera, LLC.

Town of Arthur FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$667,500.00	\$667,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$82,688.16	\$82,688.16
Total Locations	89	89

Town of Arthur Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$333,750.00	\$333,750.00
Ntera Contribution	\$168,373.68	\$251,061.84
Town of Arthur Contribution	\$82,688.16	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$82,688.16	\$82,688.16
	<u>\$667,500.00</u>	<u>\$667,500.00</u>

Town of Cleveland FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$52,500.00	\$52,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$94,515.70	\$94,515.70
Total Locations	7	7

Town of Cleveland Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$26,250.00	\$26,250.00
Ntera Contribution	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
Town of Cleveland Contribution	\$8,750.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$8,750.00	\$8,750.00
	<u>\$52,500.00</u>	<u>\$52,500.00</u>

Town of Colburn FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$165,000.00	\$165,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$92,945.68	\$92,945.68
Total Locations	22	22

Town of Colburn Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$82,500.00	\$82,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$27,500.00	\$55,000.00
Town of Colburn Contribution	\$27,500.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00
	<u>\$165,000.00</u>	<u>\$165,000.00</u>

Town of Delmar FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project		\$262,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available		\$101,423.82
Total Locations		35

Town of Delmar Project Funding

PSC Grant Request		\$131,250.00
Ntera Contribution		\$58,125.00
Town of Delmar Contribution		\$15,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution		\$58,125.00
		<u>\$262,500.00</u>

Town of Edson FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project		\$262,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available		\$118,484.80
Total Locations		35

Town of Edson Project Funding

PSC Grant Request		\$131,250.00
Ntera Contribution		\$63,125.00
Town of Edson Contribution		\$10,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution		\$58,125.00
		<u>\$262,500.00</u>

Town of Estella FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$127,500.00	\$127,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$47,205.52	\$47,205.52
Total Locations	17	17

Town of Estella Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00
Ntera Contribution	\$21,250.00	\$42,500.00
Town of Estella Contribution	\$21,250.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$21,250.00	\$21,250.00
	<u>\$127,500.00</u>	<u>\$127,500.00</u>

Town of Goetz FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$555,000.00	\$555,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$83,211.50	\$83,211.50
Total Locations	74	74

Town of Goetz Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$277,500.00	\$277,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$111,077.00	\$184,288.50
Town of Goetz Contribution	\$83,211.50	\$10,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$83,211.50	\$83,211.50
	\$555,000.00	\$555,000.00

Town of Lake Holcombe FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$112,832.70	\$112,832.70
Total Locations	36	36

Town of Lake Holcombe Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$135,000.00	\$135,000.00
Ntera Contribution	\$45,000.00	\$90,000.00
Town of Lake Holcombe Contribution	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00

Town of Ruby FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$195,000.00	\$195,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$53,485.63	\$53,485.63
Total Locations	26	26

Town of Ruby Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$32,500.00	\$65,000.00
Town of Ruby Contribution	\$32,500.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00

\$195,000.00

\$195,000.00

Town of Sigel FTTH Project

Original Proposal

Revised Proposal

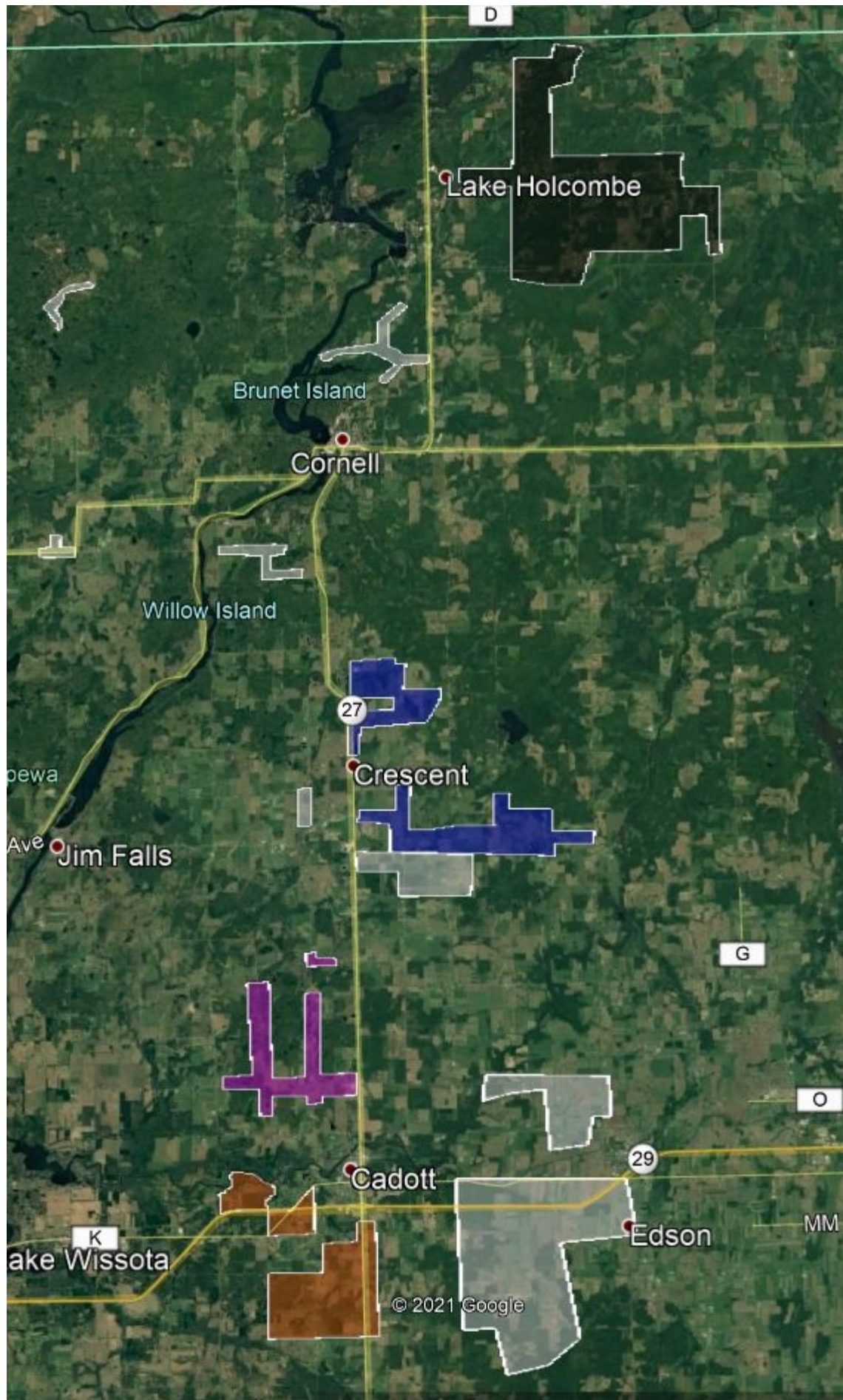
Total Cost of Project	\$1,050,000.00	\$1,050,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$114,507.40	\$114,507.40
Total Locations	140	140

Town of Sigel Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$525,000.00	\$525,000.00
Ntera Contribution	\$295,985.20	\$400,492.60
Town of Sigel Contribution	\$114,507.40	\$10,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$114,507.40	\$114,507.40
	\$1,050,000.00	\$1,050,000.00

Totals

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,082,500.00	\$3,607,500.00
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,541,250.00	\$1,803,750.00
Total Ntera Contribution	\$710,435.88	\$1,227,092.94
Total Town's Contribution	\$415,407.06	\$45,000.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$415,407.06	\$531,657.06
Total Locations	411	481





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No. **21-21**

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF NTERA, LLC TO HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

1 Passage of this resolution will formally support Governor Tony Evers' initiative to
2 allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be used
3 for the expansion of high-speed broadband internet to the unserved and underserved areas of
4 the State of Wisconsin. The State Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission (PSC)
5 coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the
6 Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Applications must be submitted to the PSC by July 27,
7 2021 to obtain these grant funds.

8 To expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved
9 areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that
10 will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal. As a result, local Telcos in
11 Chippewa County have approached the local municipalities that they serve as well as Chippewa
12 County to request matching funds as part of the application process to help qualify for grant
13 funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Chippewa County believes that
14 providing matching funding for the Telcos' grant applications is an eligible expenditure that
15 would be allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local
16 Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act "Investments in
17 Infrastructure." Chippewa County has already received about 50% of that funding from the
18 Federal Government and any matching funds for the Telcos' grant applications for broadband
19 expansion would come from the County's ARPA funds.

20 The County was approached by three Chippewa County Telcos to provide match funds
21 for their grant applications. This resolution addresses the request of Ntera, LLC which is
22 requesting that Chippewa County contribute along with the following Towns, of Goetz, Delmar,
23 Edson, and Sigel. The Town of Goetz has agreed to provide \$10,000 of matching funds. The
24 Town of Sigel has agreed to provide \$10,000 of matching funds. The Town of Delmar has
25 agreed to provide \$15,000 of matching funds. The Town of Edson has agreed to provide
26 \$10,000 of matching funds. These four Towns that are served by Ntera, LLC have agreed to
27 provide a total of \$45,000 of matching funds for the Ntera, LLC expansion project. Ntera, LLC

has requested that Chippewa County provide \$531,657.06, as part of its grant application.

Passage of this resolution will also approve that match request and commit \$531,657.06 of ARPA funds that the County received from the Federal Government. Ntera, LLC will be submitting an application for a broadband expansion project that would serve 481 locations at a total project cost of \$3,607,500. Ntera, LLC will be requesting that the State of Wisconsin provide grant funds of \$1,803,750 and Ntera, LLC would therefore fund \$1,227,092.94 of the total project cost.

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF NTERA, LLC TO HELP QUALIFY FOR
BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers has directed the Public Service Commission (PSC) to allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be dedicated to expanding high-speed broadband internet across the state; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to begin the process of providing high-speed broadband access to all citizens of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the State Broadband Office at the PSC coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant program helps providers find a path to return on investment in areas of the state that are challenging to serve due to population density or geography; and

WHEREAS, to expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County supports Governor Evers' initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet access in the State of Wisconsin and supports the local Telcos' efforts to obtain the available State funding to meet the Governor's initiative; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that providing matching funding for Telcos to help qualify for Broadband Expansion Grant funding is an eligible expenditure allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes this eligible expenditure falls under "Investments in Infrastructure" in the Interim Final Rule released by the Department of US Treasury; and

WHEREAS, in the Interim Final Rule under Investments in Infrastructure it states "To assist in meeting the critical need for investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provide funds to State, Local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in these sectors"; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released Version 1.0 of Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, under Expenditure Categories in said guide under 5: Infrastructure, 5.17
Broadband: Other projects is an eligible category; and

WHEREAS, to help qualify for this State funding, applicants for the grants should provide
matching funds for their broadband expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Telco, Ntera, LLC is proposing that the State of
Wisconsin provide \$1,803,750 of its total project cost of \$3,607,500 and that Ntera, LLC would
provide \$1,227,092.94 in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Goetz has agreed to contribute \$ 10,000 of matching funds, the
Town of Delmar has agreed to provide \$15,000 of matching funds, the Town of Edson has
agreed to provide \$10,000 of matching funds, and the Town of Sigel has agreed to contribute
\$10,000 of matching funds; and

WHEREAS, Ntera, LLC is requesting that Chippewa County provide \$531,657.06 to assist
in the broadband expansion in Chippewa County; and

WHEREAS, the total number of locations that would be served by this broadband
expansion would be 481; and

WHEREAS, applications for this funding are due by July 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that expansion of high-speed broadband internet
access throughout Chippewa County is key to the economic vitality of the County and therefore
providing financial assistance to Ntera, LLC to qualify for this ARPA funding is necessary and
appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors
does hereby support Governor Evers' \$100 million initiative to expand high-speed broadband
internet access to the unserved and underserved in Wisconsin, and more particularly in
Chippewa County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County shall provide \$531,657.06 in matching
funds for the Ntera, LLC grant application.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total Project Cost	\$3,607,500.00
Total Grant Request	\$1,803,750.00
Total Ntera, LLC Contribution	\$1,227,092.94
Total Contribution of Towns	\$45,000.00
Total Contribution of Chippewa County	\$531,657.06

(Chippewa County's Contribution will be utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funds.)

07/20/2021 Executive Committee

RESULT: RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AS AM [UNANIMOUS] Next: 7/20/2021 6:00 PM

MOVER: Mechele Shipman, District 9

SECONDER: Annette Hunt, District 13

AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/12/2021

Lori Zwiefelhofer

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

7/12/2021

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/13/2021

17 July 2021

Randy –

Attached please find our revised proposal. We received some commitment from the Towns of Delmar, Edson, Goetz & Sigel. The other towns were noncommittal primarily due to the fact that the final rule has not yet been written.

The revised proposal increases Ntera's vesting in the projects significantly. As you can see we are sincere in our efforts to continue to expand and deliver fiber to the home in Chippewa County.

It is imperative we receive a reply from the County as soon as possible after the meeting on the 20th so we may begin the laborious process of constructing the PSC grant applications.

Thank you again for your prompt replies to our inquiries and the feedback you have provided.

Respectfully,

- Russ

19 July 2021

Chippewa County Board Members
Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Board Members,

Please review the documentation pertaining to the Ntera FTTH projects for the townships of Lake Holcombe, Ruby, Cleveland, Estella, Colburn, Arthur, Goetz, Edson, Delmar, and Sigel. Along with this cover letter, we have included the project contributions for the organizations and a map showing the locations of the projects. Please note we did visit with the Town of Anson as well.

The break down of funds are as follows.

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,607,500.00
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,803,750.00
Total Ntera Contribution	\$1,227,092.94
Total Town's Contribution	\$45,000.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$531,657.06
Total Locations	481

Ntera, LLC is owned equally by Chippewa Valley Satellite, a subsidiary of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, and Citizens Connected. Both parent companies are Cooperatives, and have equal ownership in Ntera, LLC.

In early 2017 the parent companies met with the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation and discussions that started in that meeting lead to the formation of Ntera, LLC. There was a need to bring broadband to the rural areas of Chippewa County and surrounding areas that was not being met by the current providers. By January 2018 the first Ntera customer was connected in the Town of Lake Holcombe.

Without any outside assistance, Ntera has brought Internet, Video, and Voice to over 500 customers. The first project was the Town of Lake Holcombe. Expansion projects were then added for the southern shores of Lake Holcombe, and then on to the northern shores, continuing north to parts of southern Rusk County.

Considering Ntera was a new start-up a few short years ago, Ntera's take rate has been over a rewarding 50%, and the customer count continues to increase daily.

Ntera started with the most densely populated, unserved and underserved areas of the county to generate a revenue stream and are now expanding to less populated areas.

We have received State PSC Grants, in addition to Federal ReConnect funds. These funds have allowed us to expand into more rural areas, a commitment of our original charter. Ntera has grown since its inception. Currently Ntera serves over 1,000 customers.

Ntera has completed the requirements of the State PSC Grant that was received in 2019 in the Town of Birch Creek. The State PSC Grants received in 2020 have been constructed and are being cut into service a year ahead of schedule. Ntera has met or exceeded the requirements of the State PSC Grants received to date and has continued to expand into more rural communities.

All Ntera broadband is FTTH, based on proven Calix GPON technology.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

The Team at Ntera, LLC.

Town of Arthur FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$667,500.00	\$667,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$82,688.16	\$82,688.16
Total Locations	89	89

Town of Arthur Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$333,750.00	\$333,750.00
Ntera Contribution	\$168,373.68	\$251,061.84
Town of Arthur Contribution	\$82,688.16	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$82,688.16	\$82,688.16
	<u>\$667,500.00</u>	<u>\$667,500.00</u>

Town of Cleveland FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$52,500.00	\$52,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$94,515.70	\$94,515.70
Total Locations	7	7

Town of Cleveland Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$26,250.00	\$26,250.00
Ntera Contribution	\$8,750.00	\$17,500.00
Town of Cleveland Contribution	\$8,750.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$8,750.00	\$8,750.00
	<u>\$52,500.00</u>	<u>\$52,500.00</u>

Town of Colburn FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$165,000.00	\$165,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$92,945.68	\$92,945.68
Total Locations	22	22

Town of Colburn Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$82,500.00	\$82,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$27,500.00	\$55,000.00
Town of Colburn Contribution	\$27,500.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00
	<u>\$165,000.00</u>	<u>\$165,000.00</u>

Town of Delmar FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project		\$262,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available		\$101,423.82
Total Locations		35

Town of Delmar Project Funding

PSC Grant Request		\$131,250.00
Ntera Contribution		\$58,125.00
Town of Delmar Contribution		\$15,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution		\$58,125.00
		<u>\$262,500.00</u>

Town of Edson FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project		\$262,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available		\$118,484.80
Total Locations		35

Town of Edson Project Funding

PSC Grant Request		\$131,250.00
Ntera Contribution		\$63,125.00
Town of Edson Contribution		\$10,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution		\$58,125.00
		<u>\$262,500.00</u>

Town of Estella FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$127,500.00	\$127,500.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$47,205.52	\$47,205.52
Total Locations	17	17

Town of Estella Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$63,750.00	\$63,750.00
Ntera Contribution	\$21,250.00	\$42,500.00
Town of Estella Contribution	\$21,250.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$21,250.00	\$21,250.00
	<u>\$127,500.00</u>	<u>\$127,500.00</u>

Town of Goetz FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$555,000.00	\$555,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$83,211.50	\$83,211.50
Total Locations	74	74

Town of Goetz Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$277,500.00	\$277,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$111,077.00	\$184,288.50
Town of Goetz Contribution	\$83,211.50	\$10,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$83,211.50	\$83,211.50
	\$555,000.00	\$555,000.00

Town of Lake Holcombe FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$112,832.70	\$112,832.70
Total Locations	36	36

Town of Lake Holcombe Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$135,000.00	\$135,000.00
Ntera Contribution	\$45,000.00	\$90,000.00
Town of Lake Holcombe Contribution	\$45,000.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
	\$270,000.00	\$270,000.00

Town of Ruby FTTH Project

	Original Proposal	Revised Proposal
Total Cost of Project	\$195,000.00	\$195,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$53,485.63	\$53,485.63
Total Locations	26	26

Town of Ruby Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$97,500.00	\$97,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$32,500.00	\$65,000.00
Town of Ruby Contribution	\$32,500.00	\$0.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00

\$195,000.00

\$195,000.00

Town of Sigel FTTH Project

Original Proposal

Revised Proposal

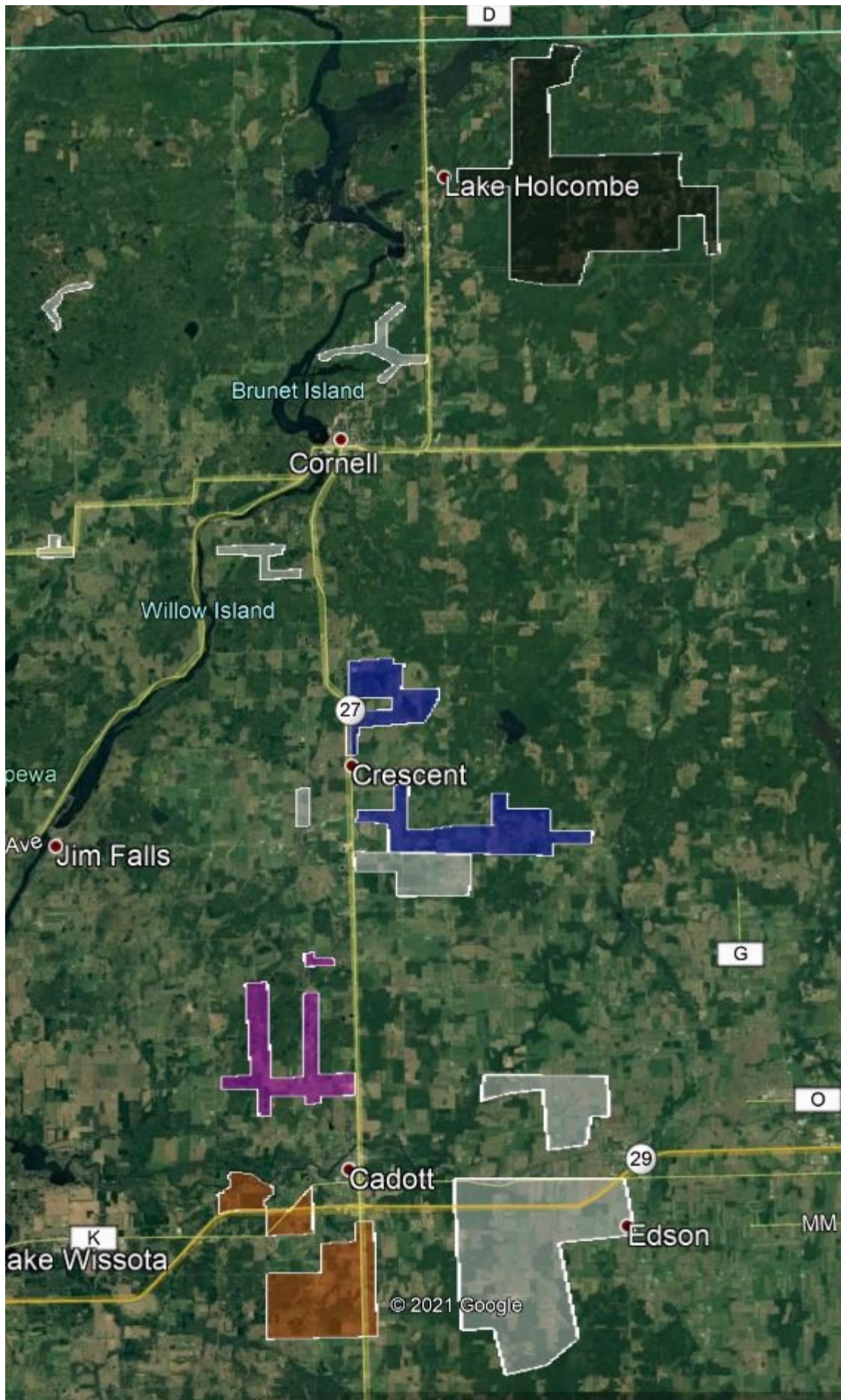
Total Cost of Project	\$1,050,000.00	\$1,050,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$114,507.40	\$114,507.40
Total Locations	140	140

Town of Sigel Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$525,000.00	\$525,000.00
Ntera Contribution	\$295,985.20	\$400,492.60
Town of Sigel Contribution	\$114,507.40	\$10,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$114,507.40	\$114,507.40
	\$1,050,000.00	\$1,050,000.00

Totals

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,082,500.00	\$3,607,500.00
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,541,250.00	\$1,803,750.00
Total Ntera Contribution	\$710,435.88	\$1,227,092.94
Total Town's Contribution	\$415,407.06	\$45,000.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$415,407.06	\$531,657.06
Total Locations	411	481





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No. **22-21**

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY TO HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

1 Passage of this resolution will formally support Governor Tony Evers' initiative to
2 allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be used
3 for the expansion of high-speed broadband internet to the unserved and underserved areas of
4 the State of Wisconsin. The State Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission (PSC)
5 coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the
6 Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Applications must be submitted to the PSC by July 27,
7 2021 to obtain these grant funds.

8 To expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved
9 areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that
10 will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal. As a result, local Telcos in
11 Chippewa County have approached the local municipalities that they serve as well as Chippewa
12 County to request matching funds as part of the application process to help qualify for grant
13 funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Chippewa County believes that
14 providing matching funding for the Telcos' grant applications is an eligible expenditure that
15 would be allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local
16 Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act "Investments in
17 Infrastructure." Chippewa County has already received about 50% of that funding from the
18 Federal Government and any matching funds for the Telcos' grant applications for broadband
19 expansion would come from the County's ARPA funds.

20 The County was approached by three Chippewa County Telcos to provide match funds
21 for their grant applications. This resolution addresses the request of Bloomer Telephone
22 Company which is requesting that Chippewa County match the contributions of the Towns of
23 Eagle Point and Tilden. The Town of Eagle Point has agreed to provide \$300,000 of matching
24 funds. The Town of Tilden has agreed to provide \$125,000 of matching funds. These two
25 Towns that are served by Bloomer Telephone Company have agreed to provide a total of
26 \$425,000 of matching funds for the Bloomer Telephone Company expansion project. Bloomer
27 Telephone Company has requested that Chippewa County contribute \$838,750 as part of its

28 grant application.

29 Passage of this resolution will also approve that request and commit \$838,750 of ARPA
30 funds that the County received from the Federal Government. Bloomer Telephone Company
31 will be submitting an application for a broadband expansion project that would serve 305
32 locations at a total project cost of \$3,753,849. Bloomer Telephone Company will be requesting
33 that the State of Wisconsin provide grant funds of \$2,032,599 and Bloomer Telephone
34 Company would fund \$457,500 of the total project cost.

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY TO
HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN**

WHEREAS, Governor Tony Evers has directed the Public Service Commission (PSC) to allocate \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to be dedicated to expanding high-speed broadband internet across the state; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to begin the process of providing high-speed broadband access to all citizens of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the State Broadband Office at the PSC coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant program helps providers find a path to return on investment in areas of the state that are challenging to serve due to population density or geography; and

WHEREAS, to expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin, it will be the local telecommunications companies (Telcos) that will be installing the infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County supports Governor Evers' initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet access in the State of Wisconsin and supports the local Telcos' efforts to obtain the available State funding to meet the Governor's initiative; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that providing matching funding for Telcos to help qualify for Broadband Expansion Grant funding is an eligible expenditure allowed under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes this eligible expenditure falls under "Investments in Infrastructure" in the Interim Final Rule released by the Department of U. S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, in the Interim Final Rule under Investments in Infrastructure it states "To assist in meeting the critical need for investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provide funds to State, Local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in these sectors"; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the U. S. Department of the Treasury released Version 1.0 of Compliance and Reporting Guidance for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; and

WHEREAS, under Expenditure Categories in said guide under 5: Infrastructure, 5.17
Broadband: Other projects is an eligible category; and

WHEREAS, to help qualify for this State funding, applicants for the grants should provide
matching funds for their broadband expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Telco, Bloomer Telephone Company is proposing that
the State of Wisconsin provide \$2,032,599 of its total project cost of \$3,753,849 and that
Bloomer Telephone Company would provide \$457,500 in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Eagle Point has agreed to contribute \$300,000 of matching
funds and the Town of Tilden has agreed to contribute \$125,000 of matching funds, for a total
of \$425,000 of matching funds for the Bloomer Telephone Company's application for
broadband expansion grant funding; and

WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone Company has also requested that Chippewa County
provide \$838,750 of funding to assist in the broadband expansion in Chippewa County; and

WHEREAS, the total number of locations that would be served by this broadband
expansion would be 305; and

WHEREAS, applications for this funding are due by July 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that expansion of high-speed broadband internet
access throughout Chippewa County is key to the economic vitality of the County and therefore
providing financial assistance to Bloomer Telephone Company to qualify for this ARPA funding
is necessary and appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors
does hereby support Governor Evers' \$100 million initiative to expand high-speed broadband
internet access to the unserved and underserved in Wisconsin, and more particularly in
Chippewa County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County shall provide \$838,750 in matching
funds for the Bloomer Telephone Company grant application.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total Project Cost	\$3,753,849
Total Grant Request	\$2,032,599
Bloomer Telephone Company Contribution	\$457,500
Total Contribution of the Towns	\$425,000
Chippewa County Contribution	\$838,750

(Chippewa County's Contribution will be utilizing American Rescue Plan Act Funds.)

07/20/2021 Executive Committee

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/14/2021

Lori Zwiefelhofer

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

7/14/2021

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/14/2021



7/9/2021

**Bloomer Telephone Company - Chippewa County
American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grants (ARPA)**

Good day Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors,

Today I propose to you a grant request utilizing the American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grants to extend broadband services to areas of Town of Tilden and Town of Eagle Point in rural Chippewa County.

Bloomer Telephone Company, working with our engineering partner, put together a proposal to extend fiber optic services to approximately 305 homes, farms and services within the Townships of Tilden and Eagle Point. The entire project scope includes approximately 86 miles of fiber optic cable placed strategically to provide services defined by the Wisconsin PSC to areas identified as ARPA eligible. These areas are identified and defined as customers that receive internet speeds of 25/3 or less, classifying them as unserved or underserved.

The project scope includes but is not limited to:

Town of Eagle Point

- a. Chippewa County, extending up the Hwy 124 corridor connecting to our existing fiber at County Highway SS through the town of Eagleton extending South to the Eagle Point Township line.
- b. Chippewa County, extending up the Hwy 178 corridor from the Jim Falls bridge to the Eagle Point Township line.

Town of Tilden

- a. Extending from our existing fiber infrastructure on County Highway C and 120th Ave across St. Hwy 53 to the East north of the Village of Tilden connecting at Hwy 124 extending South and East to the Chippewa Falls Northern edge.

The project includes a Fiber Optic Distribution Cabinet equipped with electronics that allow for further and future broadband expansion to areas outside the current ARPA qualified areas of Chippewa County.

In Total, the entire proposed project is estimated to cost \$3,753,849.00.

*Please reference the cost breakdown page included with this proposal.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Klima".

Kent Klima

General Manager – Bloomer Telephone Company

**Bloomer Telephone Company is a 120 year old privately held, stockholder owned, commercial communications company based in Bloomer, WI of Chippewa County, where we are the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) for the City of Bloomer and surround area. Offering up to 1 Gigabit broadband, voice and video services over a state of the art fiber optic network.*

Upon completion of our fiber optic network in 2017, Bloomer branched out with four successful broadband grant projects to customers outside our ILEC, to rural customers of Chippewa and Dunn counties. Our fourth grant project is scheduled to be completed by early 2022.

1120 15th Avenue
Bloomer, Wisconsin 54724

715-568-4830
Bloomer.net |

Town of Eagle Point FTTH

Total Cost of Project	\$2,490,509.00
Town's ARPA Funds Pledged	\$300,000.00
Total Locations	205
Miles of Fiber	51

EAGLE POINT PROJECT FUNDING

WI PSC ARPA Grant Request	\$1,268,010.00
Bloomer Telco Contribution	\$307,500.00
Town of Eagle Point Contribution	\$300,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$563,750.00
	\$2,490,510.00

Town of Tilden FTTH

Total Cost of Project	\$1,263,340.00
Town's ARPA Funds Pledged	\$125,000.00
Total Locations	100
Miles of Fiber	35

TILDEN PROJECT FUNDING

WI PSC ARPA Grant Request	\$713,340.00
Bloomer Telco Contribution	\$150,000.00
Town of Tilden Contribution	\$125,000.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$275,000.00
	\$1,263,340.00

TOTALS

<u>Total Cost of Projects</u>	<u>\$3,753,849.00</u>
Total WI ST PSC ARPA Grant Fund	\$2,032,599.00
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$838,750.00
Total Bloomer Telephone Co Contribution	\$457,500.00
Total Township Contribution	\$425,000.00



7/12/2021

Bloomer Telephone Company's ARPA Project Details:

• Estimated Project Cost	\$3,753,850.00
• Total Miles of Fiber	86
• Total Customers Passed	305
• Cost of Fiber per Mile	\$43,650.00
• Per Customer Cost	\$12,310.00
• Customers per Mile	3.5

The scope of this project provides fiber to the areas identified as eligible for ARPA funding guidelines, within the County of Chippewa and the Townships of Tilden and Eagle Point.

*In addition, we tasked our engineering partner to project the cost associated with building out the remaining parts of Tilden and Eagle Point Townships in areas.

In these areas we estimate another 440 customers could be reached at an approximate cost of \$4.4M

Our intention will be to apply for Wisconsin state grant funds in the near future to continue our build out plans within Chippewa County.

EAGLE POINT

