

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2023

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302

4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gullickson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Dean Gullickson	Chippewa County	District 5 (Chair)	Present	
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
Harold Steele	Chippewa County	District 2	Present	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 6	Excused	
Jason Bergeron	Chippewa County	District 7	Present	

Others Present: Randy Scholz, Traci Bremness, Lori Zwiefelhofer, Travis McFarlane, Ryan Hartzell, Toni Hohlfelder, Andy Bauer, Todd Pauls, TV13 reporter

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Harold Steele, District 2
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Executive Committee - Regular Meeting - Dec 20, 2022 4:00 PM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - February 7, 2023

5. REPORTS

6. UPDATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE

Executive Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

January 17, 2023
4:00 PM

A. County Board Chair Report

B. County Administrator Operation Report

1. Update on Implementation of Fraud Hotline - Randy Scholz/Lori Zwiefelhofer
Scholz explained Chippewa County has entered into a service contract with Lighthouse Services, LLC to provide an anonymous form of reporting fraudulent behavior by employees. The fraud hotline is for fiscal fraud concerns only.

RESULT:	REVIEWED	Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM
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2. CIP Project Update 2020-2023 - Randy Scholz/Lori Zwiefelhofer
Zwiefelhofer gave an update on the status of current CIP projects.

RESULT:	REVIEWED	Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM
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7. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Resolution to Reauthorize Payment of American Rescue Plan Act Funding to Bloomer Telephone Company for a Broadband Expansion Project in the Towns of Eagle Point, Lafayette and Tilden – Randy Scholz/Travis McFarlane

McFarlane explained they didn't receive the full PSC grant funds so they prepared a revised proposal. They did get one of the projects approved from the original request. They will be working in Hallie and Seymour for that part. They are requesting the remainder of the funds from Chippewa County in the amount of \$295,232. They are proposing 129 locations, 22+ miles of fiber for a total cost of \$800,000 with Bloomer Telephone's commitment of \$500,000. They have the majority of the materials and a commitment from contractors to complete the work in 2023. When this project is done, then Lafayette will be served by broadband. In Tilden, they will be down to less than 20 homes that don't have broadband.

RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7	
SECONDER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)	
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron	
EXCUSED:	Sikorski	

2. Resolution to Reauthorize Payment of American Rescue Plan Act Funding to Ntera, LLC for a Broadband Expansion Project in the Towns of Cleveland and Ruby – Randy Scholz/Ryan Hartzell
Hartzell explained they didn't get their original grant request. He reviewed two proposed options. Both options would require the same amount of funding from Chippewa County. Option 2 would serve more homes and is contingent upon receiving the PSC grant. If they don't get awarded the PSC grant, they would still complete Option 1 as presented.

Executive Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

January 17, 2023
4:00 PM

RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Harold Steele, District 2	
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7	
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron	
EXCUSED:	Sikorski	

3. Resolution to Authorize Compensation and Mileage Reimbursement for Up to 100 Days of Committee Meetings in 2023 – Randy Scholz
Scholz explained this is an annual resolution.

RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Harold Steele, District 2	
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7	
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron	
EXCUSED:	Sikorski	

4. The Executive Committee will convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) – “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility” (County Administrator Performance Evaluation)
The following individuals were present during closed session: Dean Gullickson, Ken Schmitt, Buck Steele, Jason Bergeron, Toni Hohlfelder, and Randy Scholz.

The committee convened to closed session at 4:49 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
SECONDER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

The Committee will convene to open session.
The committee convened to open session at 6:47 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

9. ADJOURN

Executive Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

January 17, 2023
4:00 PM

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Harold Steele, District 2
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Bergeron
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2022
CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302
4:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gullickson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Dean Gullickson	Chippewa County	District 5 (Chair)	Present	
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3 (Vice-Chair)	Late	4:15 PM
Harold Steele	Chippewa County	District 2	Present	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 6	Present	
Jason Bergeron	Chippewa County	District 7	Present	

Others Present: Randy Scholz, Traci Bremness, Lori Zwiefelhofer, Toni Hohlfelder, Andy Bauer

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glen Sikorski, District 6
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Sikorski, Bergeron

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve the Minutes

Executive Committee - Regular Meeting - Dec 6, 2022 4:00 PM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - January 3, 2022

5. REPORTS

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Resolution to Approve Guidelines and Procedures for Allocating Opioid Settlement Funds - Randy Scholz
Scholz was notified last Friday the state is still working on the criteria for securitization. He was also notified there is another round of settlements so we will be receiving more opioid funds. He will share more details once we receive that information. The proposed guidelines for using opioid funds indicate it will be handled during the budget process. Scholz explained that we can't displace current funding. Therefore, we can't use opioid funds for an existing project. It needs to be a new project or an addition to

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 20, 2022 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)

Executive Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

December 20, 2022
4:00 PM

an existing project.

Steele commented that he would like the County Board to approve projects/programs before the budget is presented in November. Bergeron wants to make sure the committees review the proposals first before they go to the County Board. Steele would also like a report that goes to the County Board indicating what programs worked and which ones didn't.

Scholz suggested providing a report to the County Board in May of what was submitted. That feedback could then go to the committees for consideration when they review the proposals.

The committee was ok with adding a new item after #4 as follows: "A report will be given to the County Board annually in May with the recommendations from the Opioid Workgroup."

Motion (Steele/Sikorski) to forward to the CB as amended. Carried 5-0.

RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 1/10/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Harold Steele, District 2	
SECONDER:	Glen Sikorski, District 6	
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Sikorski, Bergeron	

2. Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2, Division III. Appointed Officials Enumerated and Section 2-226. Emergency Management Director of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances - Randy Scholz
Scholz explained this ordinance codifies what the County Board decided last month when they approved the consolidation. This position will no longer be appointed by the County Board.

RESULT:	FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 1/10/2023 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Harold Steele, District 2	
SECONDER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)	
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Sikorski, Bergeron	

7. UPDATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. County Board Chair Report
- B. County Administrator Operation Report

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 20, 2022 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)

Executive Committee

Minutes
Regular Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

December 20, 2022
4:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
SECONDER:	Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Steele, Sikorski, Bergeron

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 20, 2022 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)



Implementation of Fraud Hotline for Employees

Randy Scholz, County Administrator
Executive Committee – January 17, 2023
County Board – February 14, 2023

History

- The County Administrator attended a training in late 2018 and learned of Forensic/Internal Control Reviews by Sikich
- County Administrator authorized Sikich LLC to conduct two Forensic/Internal Control reviews:
 - 2019 – Central Finance and Treasurer offices
 - 2021 – Department of Human Services and Land Conservation Forest Management offices
- Presentation of 2021 Sikich Review provided at December 14, 2021 County Board [CB Agenda Packet – 12/14/2021](#)
- Sikich LLC provided County Board training for Board Oversight and Implementing Effective Controls on May 24, 2022

**Remember these reviews have been done in addition to the
Annual Audit by CLA!**

Why Implement a Fraud Hotline?

- This was a recommendation from Sikich LLC.
- This provides our employees with an anonymous way to report any fiscal fraud concerns.
- Having necessary controls in place helps dissuade fraudulent activities.
- This recommendation was referred to many times by Sikich LLC when they provided training to the County Board and when they prepared training videos for our employees
- After a little research, we found that there were a couple other Wisconsin counties utilizing a company called Lighthouse Services for this function.
 - We signed a 3 year agreement (2023-2025) with Lighthouse Services (a Division of Syntrio) for \$1,300/year.
 - Employees can report concerns anonymously to Lighthouse Services. The county will then be notified of the concern and can start the investigation process.

Fraud Hotline Implementation for Employees

- This program became available in January for the employees.
- On MLK employee training day (January 17th), the County Administrator shared some information with the employees regarding the implementation of this hotline.
- In mid to late January, employees will be assigned the appropriate Sikich Fraud Risks and Internal Controls training videos and an email will be sent to each of them introducing the details of the program. (These videos will be required for all employees.)
 - There are two levels of training videos depending upon the duties required for the position:
 - Department Head, Manager and Cash Handling employees
 - All other employees

Fraud Hotline Procedures

- On the Employee Portal, there will be a page dedicated to the Fraud Hotline. The procedure will identify that fraud is a willful or deliberate act committed with the intention of obtaining money or property by misrepresentation, deception or other unethical means. Also, there is a list with some examples.
- There will be a link and other contact information to Lighthouse Services. When an employee files a report with Lighthouse Services, they can choose three different options to identify themselves:
 - **Completely anonymous** to Lighthouse Services and Chippewa County
 - **Only known** to Lighthouse Services and **not** shared with Chippewa County
 - **Known** to Lighthouse Services **and** Chippewa County
- Any reporting will automatically notify the County Administrator and Finance Director. Then they will discuss if it is a fiscal concern and if so, appoint someone to investigate. These investigators may be internal or external depending upon the report. (If either the County Administrator or Finance Director is named in the report, the report will be alternately routed to the Corporation Counsel and the other individual not named.)

Incident Report Questions with Lighthouse Services

- Questions listed by Lighthouse Services regarding reporting the incident:
 - Who are the individuals involved in this incident?
 - When did the incident occur?
 - Did the incident occur more than once? (Yes or No)
 - What type of incident would you like to report? (Embezzlement, Fraud or Theft of Property)
 - Embezzlement – Fraudulently appropriating assets by an individual to whom such property has been entrusted.
 - Fraud – A willful or deliberate act committed with the intention of obtaining money or property by misrepresentation, deception or other unethical means.
 - Theft of Property – Stealing property belonging to the company or another without their consent.
 - What would you like to report? (Provide all details of alleged incident.)
 - Was someone from management involved in the incident? (Yes or No, if yes, who?)
 - Has the incident been reported to anyone in the organization/entity/company? (Yes or No, if yes, who?)
 - Has the incident been reported to anyone outside the organization/entity/company? (Yes or No, if yes, who?)
 - Were there any witnesses? (Yes or No, if yes, who?)

Incident Report Questions with Lighthouse Services (Cont.)

These are the questions for employees to distinguish how anonymous this report should be:

Would you be willing to anonymously assist further if asked?

☒ Yes ☐ No Contact, I'm done. Skip the following questions and submit the report below.

By providing your email address, you enable anonymous communication from the organization/entity/company you are submitting a report on behalf of to be emailed to you and you will not need to sign in to our system to see it. Your email address will remain confidential as allowed by law, and cannot be viewed by the company/entity.

This will allow you to provide additional information and communicate directly with the organization/entity/company's designated recipient. You will also be able to ask your organization/entity/company about the status of your report.

If yes, what email address can be used to anonymously communicate with you?

The question above, gives the employee two options for submitting the report:

- No, anonymous from Lighthouse Services as well as Chippewa County. With no ability for Chippewa County to communicate anonymously with the employee.
- Yes, anonymous from Chippewa County only but able to communicate via email. The employee's email address remains unknown to Chippewa County.

Do you give permission to share your contact information with the organization/entity/company (waive your anonymity)?

☐ Yes, I wish to share my identity with the organization/entity/company in this report.

☐ No, I wish to remain anonymous.

If Yes, please supply your name and email address or phone number. This information will be included in this report that will be sent to the organization/entity/company's designated recipient. Please note that a Yes response is authorizing us to divulge your name and contact information and you are waiving your anonymity.

The question above, gives the employee two options for Chippewa County to contact the employee regarding the report:

- No, anonymous Chippewa County.
- Yes, employee is waiving anonymity. Chippewa County will know who reported the incident.

CONFIDENTIALITY COMMITMENT

Lighthouse is an independent provider that assists your organization/entity/company to identify improper activity. We are committed to protecting the identity of all persons who use our secure reporting system. Reports are submitted by Lighthouse to the organization/entity/company's designee, and may or may not be investigated at the sole discretion of the organization/entity/company. Although we will not disclose your identity without your express permission, it is possible that your identity may be discovered during an investigation of the matter reported because of information you have provided.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns





2021-2023 CIP PROJECT UPDATE

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Presentation for Executive Committee on January 17, 2023
Presentation for County Board on February 14, 2023

History

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Policy

- Adopted by County Board in June 2012
 - Last Amended in April 2013
- Goal was to give structure and uniformity to the process.
 - Also allows the CB to see the big items needed in the future and allows for prioritization of major projects.
- A 5-year plan is prepared by the CA and presented to the Executive Committee and CB annually.
 - CB only “approves” projects for the next year’s budget cycle. Projects in years 2-5 are placeholders.
 - Each project is approved via a resolution.
 - Having a 5-year plan also helps with maintaining our Aa¹ bond rating.

Capital Project Criteria

- Capital assets or project costs of \$50,000 or more per County Ordinance 2-361(a)(3)b.1-4 (Sales and Use Tax).
- Capital or project assets that have a useful life of more than 3 years or extend the life of existing asset.
- Required by Ordinance 2-361(a)(3), the CIP must be updated during the annual budget process.

Overview

- This annual report provides the County Board with an update on the status of approved CIP projects 2021-2023 as of 12/31/2022
 - DOA Staff maintains detailed reporting and management protocol for the CIP Program

Year	Sales Tax Funding	Bonding Funding
2021	\$2,323,900	\$1,700,000
2022	\$3,025,000	\$1,300,000
2023	\$3,335,000	\$3,000,000

Hints

Below is an example of the annual review of an approved project:

- Total Budgeted Amount equals all of the funding sources for the project.
- When looking at the Project (Over/Under) column:
 - If sales tax was the approved funding source and the project came in under budget, then the remaining funds will be transferred back to the sales tax fund.
 - If Fund Balance was the approved funding source and the project came in under budget, then the department will maintain the remaining funds for future projects.

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2022	Replacement of Jail Windows	\$150,000		\$150,000				In Progress	

RMS/CAD/Jail/Civil Software - Spillman Project

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2018	RMS/CAD/Jail/Civil software – Spillman Project	\$857,153	\$770,000	\$87,153		\$808,173	\$48,980	Completed	Go Live was March 2019. The latest module DA Protect was added for DA Staff. This remaining balance has been transferred back to sales tax.

\$48,980 Transferred back to Sales Tax Fund

2021 Projects

(Still "In Progress" as of February 2022 CIP Update)

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2021	Park Master Plan – Otter Lake Fish Cleaning Facility	\$150,000	\$150,000			\$124,724	\$25,276	In Progress	
2021	Generator System updates for Courthouse/Sheriff's	\$50,000	\$50,000			\$0		In Progress	Total Budget is \$100,000 which includes \$50,000 from 2013.
2021	Roof Replacement – 1992 Courthouse Addition (3 of 4)	\$175,000	\$175,000			\$0		In Progress	Combined with 2022 Roof Replacement Project for more competitive bid.
2021	IT Office Remodel	\$137,150	\$137,150			\$134,458		In Progress	Waiting for finalized billings.
2021	WIC/Public Health Remodel	\$50,000	\$50,000			\$54,448		In Progress	Public Health received grant for \$50,000 and will be using other funds from Public Health for overage.
2021	Veteran's Department Security Upgrades & Remodel	\$95,000	\$95,000			\$87,455		In Progress	Waiting for finalized billings.
2021	Conference Room Remodel (Old Land Records Office)	\$213,900	\$150,000	\$63,900		\$194,938		In Progress	Waiting for finalized billings.

2021 Projects (Cont.)

(Still "In Progress" as of February 2022 CIP Update)

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2021	Highways & Bridges	\$5,621,778	\$2,621,778	\$1,300,000	\$1,700,000	\$5,795,567		In Progress	
2021	Highway Machinery Purchases	\$950,000	\$950,000			\$1,370,839	(\$420,839)	Completed	Some of this equipment was ordered in 2020 and received in 2022
2021	Highway Building Improvements & Security	\$325,000	\$325,000			\$325,000	\$0.00	Completed	Done in conjunction with Phase II Highway Building Improvements
2021	Non-Highway Fleet Vehicles	\$200,000		\$200,000		\$196,603	\$3,397	Completed	
2021	IT replacement equipment & data center	\$245,000		\$245,000		\$114,891	\$130,109	Completed	Sales Tax stayed in Non-Lapsing Balanced for future years since it is requested each year.
2021	Boundary Waters Project	\$50,000		\$50,000		\$2,004.08		In Progress	
2021	Snowmobile Bridge	\$120,000	\$120,000			\$21,127		Completed	

2021 Projects (Cont.)

(Still "In Progress" as of February 2022 CIP Update)

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2021	Sheriff Clerical Room Redesign	\$75,000		\$75,000		\$76,864	(\$1,864)	In Progress	
	Total 2021 Projects Still in Progress from previous CIP Update in February 2022	\$8,457,828	\$4,823,928	\$1,933,900	\$1,700,000	\$8,495,918			

Project Over/Under Review:

\$ 0 Returned to the Sales Tax Fund
(\$163,184) Maintained within account or not requested by grant

2022 Projects

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2022	Replacement of Jail Windows	\$150,000		\$150,000		\$14,188		In Progress	Bids for project are about 10-15% more than expected.
2022	Roof Replacement	\$415,000		\$415,000		\$279,848		In Progress	Waiting for finalized billing from the contractor. With consolidation of 2021 Roofing Project.
2022	Parking Lot Maintenance	\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000	\$0.00	Completed	
2022	Courthouse Painting/Wallcovering	\$170,000	\$170,000			\$10,289		In Progress	
2022	Dump Truck Replacement	\$120,000	\$120,000			\$0.00		In Progress	Wait time until summer of 2023 for truck delivery.
2022	Highways & Bridges	\$7,938,085	\$5,038,085	\$1,600,000	\$1,300,000	\$8,869,407		In Progress	
2022	Machinery Purchases	\$1,025,000	\$1,025,000			\$687,874		In Progress	

2022 Projects (Cont.)									
Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2022	Hwy Building Improvements – Security Phase 2	\$250,000	\$250,000			\$215,398	\$34,602	Completed	
2022	Non-Highway Vehicle Fleet	\$275,000		\$275,000		\$217,357		In Progress	
2022	IT replacement equipment & data center	\$265,000		\$265,000		\$227,499		In Progress	
2022	Courtroom Audio/Visual Updates	\$80,000		\$80,000		\$10,787		In Progress	Ordered some equipment on June 2 nd and still waiting for it.
2022	Groundwater Quality Well Sampling Project Updates	\$59,000	\$59,000			\$0.00		In Progress	UWSP has collected 25 of 50 samples but have some delays for some tests of the samples analyzed.
2022	Climate Change Flood Control Buffer	\$100,000		\$50,000		\$0.00	\$100,000	Closed	No projects. \$50,000 returned to Sales Tax Fund
2022	Forest Dam Drop Structure Replacement	\$50,000		\$50,000		\$0.00	\$50,000	Closed	Waiting for Dam Failure Analysis which could take 2-3 years. Will reapply with more information. Sales tax transferred back.

2022 Projects (Cont.)									
Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2022	County Stewardship Fund	\$100,000	\$85,000	\$15,000		\$50,000	\$50,000	Completed	
2022	County Forest Land Acquisitions	\$300,000	\$300,000			\$0.00	\$300,000	Closed	No projects
2022	Snowmobile Bridge Replacement	\$120,000	\$120,000			\$169		In Progress	
2022	Field Service Body Cameras	\$75,000		\$75,000		\$0.00	\$75,000	Completed	Donation by PESI for funding of cameras plus 5 years for operational costs. These sales tax funds will be returned to sales tax fund.
Total 2022 Projects		\$11,542,085	\$7,217,085	\$3,025,000	\$1,300,000	\$10,632,816			
Project Over/Under Review: \$175,000 Returned to the Sales Tax Fund \$675,000 Maintained within account or not requested by grant									

2023 Projects

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2023	Replace 43 Campsite Docks	\$129,000	\$129,000					In Progress	
2023	Replace Playground Equip at 3 Parks	\$260,000	\$260,000					In Progress	
2023	LCFM Department Remodel	\$475,000		\$475,000				In Progress	
2023	Roof Replacements	\$175,000		\$175,000				In Progress	
2023	LED Lighting Upgrade	\$150,000	\$15,000	\$135,000				In Progress	
2023	Highways and Bridges	\$13,467,300	\$8,867,300	\$1,600,000	\$3,000,000			In Progress	
2023	Machinery Purchases	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000					In Progress	

2023 Projects (Cont.)

Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2023	Building Improvements at Highway Department	\$100,000	\$100,000					In Progress	
2023	Non-Highway Vehicle Fleet	\$250,000		\$250,000				In Progress	
2023	Replacement End User Devices & Data Center Equip	\$225,000		\$225,000				In Progress	
2023	Courtroom Audio/Video Control System	\$75,000		\$75,000				In Progress	
2023	Hickory Ridge Trailhead Expansion	\$500,000	\$500,000					In Progress	
2023	County Stewardship Fund	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000				In Progress	
2023	County Forest Land Acquisitions	\$300,000	\$300,000					In Progress	

2023 Projects (Cont.)									
Year	Project Title	Total Budgeted Amount	Fund Balance/ Grants	Sales Tax	Borrowing	Expenditure (12-31-22)	Project (Over/Under)	Status	Comments
2023	Snowmobile Bridge - TBD	\$120,000	\$120,000					In Progress	
2023	911 Phone System Replacement	\$350,000		\$350,000				In Progress	
	Total 2023 Projects	\$17,776,300	\$11,441,300	\$3,335,000	\$3,000,000				

Summary	
- Acceptable progress has been made on funded CIP projects - Highway & Bridge projects will take several years to close due to matching funds/grant timing - CIP project status update are provided to Executive Committee and County Board annually (at a minimum) - The next step... - Department Heads received 2024-2028 CIP guidelines and forms in December of 2022 - CA presents recommended plan to Executive Committee in June for consideration then to the County Board for action	

Questions, Comments, or Concerns





STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR A BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE TOWNS OF EAGLE POINT, LAFAYETTE AND TILDEN

1 Passage of this resolution will reauthorize the payment of American Rescue Plan Act
 2 (ARPA) funds to Bloomer Telephone Company to be used to complete a broadband expansion
 3 project in the Towns of Eagle Point, Lafayette, and Tilden. On March 8, 2022, the County Board
 4 approved the attached Resolution No. 06-22, which authorized the payment of \$328,818.00 of
 5 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Bloomer Telephone Company. That funding was to
 6 be used as part of Bloomer Telephone Company's Broadband Expansion Grant Program grant
 7 application for the expansion of broadband to 607 unserved and underserved locations in the
 8 Towns of Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, and Tilden. The payment of the \$328,818.00 ARPA
 9 funds was contingent on Bloomer Telephone Company's grant application being approved by
 10 the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin. However, Bloomer Telephone Company was
 11 informed earlier this year that the majority of its Broadband Expansion Grant Program
 12 application was denied by the PSC. Bloomer Telephone Company was approved for PSC grant
 13 funding for the Hallie broadband expansion project for which Chippewa County had committed
 14 \$33,586.00 of the total \$323,818.00, per Resolution 06-22.

15 Since the denial of the majority of the PSC application, Bloomer Telephone Company has
 16 been in contact with Chippewa County and has stated they are still interested in completing a
 17 broadband expansion project in 2023 that would provide broadband to 129 unserved and
 18 underserved locations in the Towns of Eagle Point, Lafayette, and Tilden. Bloomer Telephone
 19 Company has proposed that this new, downsized project would be financed by Bloomer
 20 Telephone Company and the remainder of the \$328,818.00 funding that Chippewa County had
 21 committed to Bloomer Telephone Company with the passage of Resolution 06-22. The County
 22 Administrator and the Finance Director have reviewed this new Bloomer Telephone Company
 23 broadband expansion proposal that is set out in the attached *Bloomer Telco Broadband*
 24 *Expansion Proposal, December 2022.*

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO
BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR A BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE TOWNS
OF EAGLE POINT, LAFAYETTE AND TILDEN**

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2022, the County Board approved the attached Resolution No. 06-22, which authorized the payment of \$328,818.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Bloomer Telephone Company to be used as part of Bloomer Telephone Company's Broadband Expansion Grant Program grant application for the expansion of broadband to 607 unserved and underserved locations in the Towns of Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, and Tilden; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 06-22 also made the payment of the \$328,818.00 of ARPA funds contingent on Bloomer Telephone Company's grant application being approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone Company was informed earlier this year that the majority of its Broadband Expansion Grant Program application was denied by the PSC; and

WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone Company did receive PSC grant funding for broadband expansion in the Town of Hallie, for which Chippewa County had committed \$33,586.00 by passage of Resolution 06-22; and

WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone Company has been in contact with Chippewa County and has stated they are still interested in completing a smaller broadband expansion project in 2023 that would provide broadband to 129 unserved and underserved locations in the Towns of Eagle Point, Lafayette, and Tilden and that would be financed by Bloomer Telephone Company and the remainder of the funding that Chippewa County committed in Resolution 06-22, \$295,232.00; and

WHEREAS, the cost and scope of the proposed broadband expansion projects are set out in the attached *Bloomer Telco Broadband Expansion Proposal, December 2022*; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator and the Finance Director have reviewed this new Bloomer Telephone Company broadband expansion proposal and Bloomer Telephone Company is requesting that \$295,232.00 of ARPA funding, that was originally part of the \$328,818.00 approved in Resolution 06-22, to be used to complete the proposed broadband expansion in the Towns of Eagle Point, Lafayette, and Tilden;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the payment of \$295,232.00 of ARPA funds to Bloomer Telephone Company for the completion of a broadband expansion project in the Towns of Eagle Point,

Lafayette, and Tilden as set out above and in the attached *Bloomer Telco Broadband Expansion Proposal, December 2022*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bloomer Telephone Company provide a report to the County Board at the December 12, 2023 meeting on the project and how it benefited citizens of Chippewa County.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$295,232 of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

01/17/2023 Executive Committee

RESULT: FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS] Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM

MOVER: Jason Bergeron, District 7

SECONDER: Ken Schmitt, District 3 (Vice-Chair)

AYES: Dean Gullickson, Ken Schmitt, Harold Steele, Jason Bergeron

EXCUSED: Glen Sikorski

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

12/19/2022

Lori Zwiefelhofer

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

12/19/2022

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

12/19/2022



Chippewa Co 2023 ARPA Broadband Proposal

ARPA Funds approved with RES 06-22

- ▶ \$328,818 Approved for BTC Communications, dba Bloomer Telephone Company pending grant approval from PSC
- ▶ Townships of Eagle Point(66), Hallie(62), Lafayette(423), and Tilden(56)
 - ▶ Total locations of 607
- ▶ Project for Hallie/Seymour awarded by State of WI PSC, County commitment is \$33,586
- ▶ \$295,232 of County commitment was not awarded grants by PSC. Asking County to commit the \$295,232 to the newly proposed projects in Eagle Point, Lafayette, and Tilden. BTC will build without the requirement of State funding.



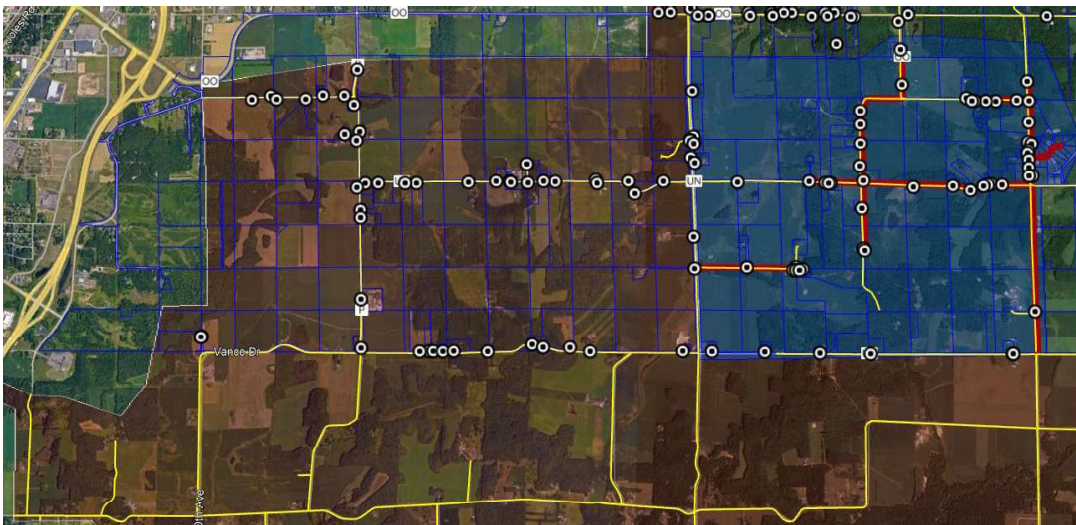
2023 Construction Proposal

- ▶ 129 locations, 22+ miles of fiber
- ▶ Total cost estimate at \$800k
- ▶ BTC commitment at \$500k
- ▶ Target areas that were missed due to inaccurate maps during grant rollouts
- ▶ Have majority of the materials and commitment from construction crew



Lafayette

- ▶ 56 locations, 7.5 miles of fiber in blue shaded area (Hallie/Seymour in red)
- ▶ Crews will be in the vicinity in 2023 allowing a quick turn around on the build



Tilden / Eagle Point

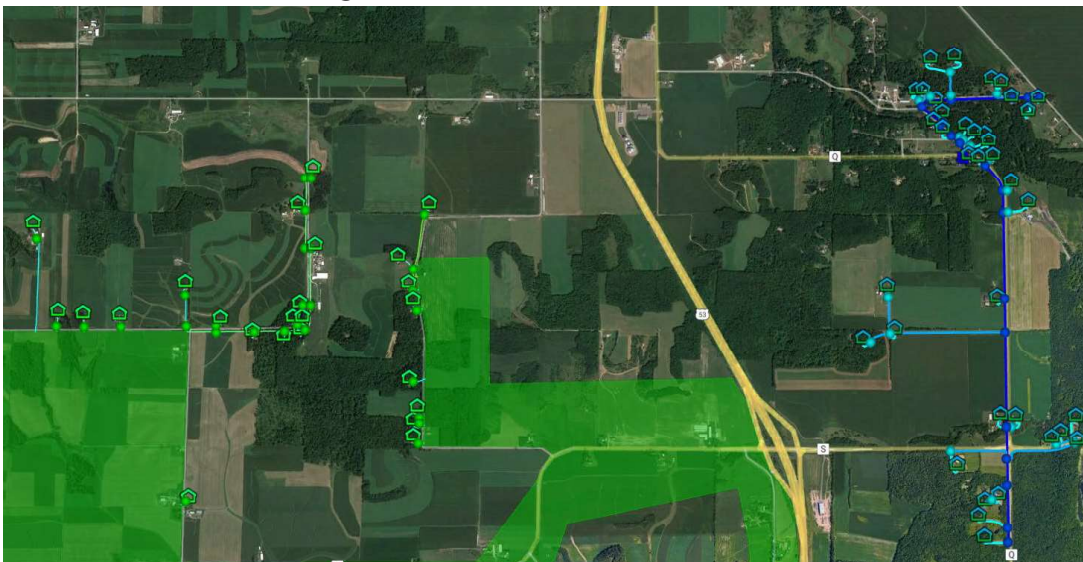
- ▶ 73 locations, 14+miles of fiber
- ▶ Eagle Point Map---
 - ▶ Bloomer Tel area in orange
 - ▶ 2022 build in green



BLOOME
TELEPHONE COMPANY

Tilden Map

- ▶ In talks with Tilden township for commitment of ARPA funds, January meeting
- ▶ 2022 build in shaded green



BLOOME
TELEPHONE COMPANY

Questions?

Travis McFarlane

Operations Manager - Bloomer Telephone Company

Travis.mcfarlane@bloomer.net

(715) 568-4830



**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

Resolution No. 06 - 22

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF BTC COMMUNICATIONS, DBA BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY TO HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN - RANDY SCHOLZ

1 Passage of this resolution will provide matching funds for BTC Communications, dba
2 Bloomer Telephone Company (Bloomer Telephone) as it applies to the Public Service
3 Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin for funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program to
4 provide broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of Chippewa County that are in
5 Bloomer Telephone's service area. This provision of local government matching funds will help
6 Bloomer Telephone qualify for the grant funding from the PSC.

7 On July 20, 2021, the County Board approved Resolution 21-22 which approved
8 \$838,750 of matching funds for Bloomer Telephone to use as part of its application to the PSC
9 for a Broadband Expansion Grant to be used in the Towns of Eagle Point and Tilden. In October
10 2021, Bloomer Telephone was approved for \$1.88 million in grant funding for the projects in
11 the Towns of Eagle Point and Tilden.

12 The PSC has now allocated an additional \$100 million in funding for the Broadband
13 Expansion Grant Program and applications for these grants are due by March 17, 2022. The
14 purpose of the funding is again to be used for the expansion of high-speed broadband internet
15 to the unserved and underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin. The State Broadband Office
16 at the (PSC) coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and
17 manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program.

18 To expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved
19 areas of the State of Wisconsin, and more specifically in Chippewa County, it will be the local
20 telecommunications companies (Telcos), such as Bloomer Telephone, that will be installing the
21 infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal. Bloomer Telephone is requesting that
22 Chippewa County again provide matching funds as part of its application for broadband
23 expansion funding from the PSC. On February 24, 2022, the County Board tentatively approved
24 \$500,000 of funding for local Telcos, such as Bloomer Telephone, to apply for a PSC Broadband
25 Expansion Grant. The County Administrator is recommending that of that \$500,000, \$328,818
26 be approved for Bloomer Telephone's PSC application.

Chippewa County believes that providing funding for Bloomer Telephone's 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." If this resolution is approved, Bloomer Telephone would be eligible to receive \$328,818.00 in funding from Chippewa County if their application to the PSC is approved. Those funds would come from the County's ARPA funds.

Bloomer Telephone is requesting that Chippewa County contribute funding along with the Towns of Tilden, Hallie, and Lafayette. The Bloomer Telephone broadband expansion project would provide coverage in the Towns of Tilden, Hallie, Eagle Point and Lafayette. The Towns of Tilden, Hallie, and Lafayette have agreed to provide a total of \$94,000 of funding as part of Bloomer Telephone's application to the PSC, as follows:

Tilden - \$30,000;

Hallie - \$14,000; and

Lafayette - \$50,000.

Note that during the application process for Broadband Expansion Grant funding in July 2021, the Town of Eagle Point agreed to provide \$300,000 in funds.

Passage of this resolution will commit \$328,818 of ARPA funds that the County received from the Federal Government to be used as part of Bloomer Telephone's PSC application. Bloomer Telephone will be applying for a broadband expansion project that would serve 607 locations at a total project cost of \$9,786,634. Bloomer Telephone will be requesting that the State of Wisconsin provide grant funds of \$7,116,316 and Bloomer Telephone would fund \$1,597,500 of the total project cost.

Resolution No. 06 - 22

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRANT APPLICATION OF BTC COMMUNICATIONS, DBA
BLOOMER TELEPHONE COMPANY TO HELP QUALIFY FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION FUNDING
FROM THE STATE OF WISCONSIN - RANDY SCHOLZ**

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin is allocating an additional \$100 million in funding for the Broadband Expansion Grant Program, similar to the broadband expansion funding the PSC was offering in July 2021; and

WHEREAS, applications for this next round of Broadband Expansion Grant Program funding must be filed with the PSC by March 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to continue the process of providing high-speed broadband access to the unserved and underserved 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 Broadband Expansion 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 this PSC 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 goals of the PSC 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 Final Rule released by the Department of U. S. Treasury; and

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

94 WHEREAS, on July 20, 2021, the County Board passed Resolution 21-22, which approved
95 \$838,750 of ARPA funds to be used by the Telco, Bloomer Telephone, as part of its July 2021
96 Broadband Expansion Grant application with the PSC; and
97

98 WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone's July 2021 grant application was approved by the PSC in
99 October 2021 for broadband expansion projects in the Towns of Tilden and Eagle Point, in part
100 due to the matching funds provided by Chippewa County and the effected towns; and
101

102 WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone is now in the process of making another application for
103 funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program and is requesting that the State of
104 Wisconsin provide \$7,116,316 of the total project cost of \$9,786,634 and that Bloomer
105 Telephone would provide \$1,597,500 in funding; and
106

107 WHEREAS, the Town of Tilden has agreed to contribute \$30,000 of funds, the Town of
108 Hallie has agreed to contribute \$14,000 of funds, and the Town of Lafayette has agreed to
109 contribute \$50,000 of funds, for a total of \$94,000 of funds, as part of the Bloomer Telephone's
110 application for broadband expansion grant funding; and

111 WHEREAS, the Town of Eagle Point previously approved \$30,000 of funding for Bloomer
112 Telephone's broadband expansion grant application in July 2021; and

113 WHEREAS, Bloomer Telephone has again requested that Chippewa County provide
114 matching funding to assist in the broadband expansion in Chippewa County; and
115

116 WHEREAS, the total number of locations that would be served by this broadband
117 expansion would be 607; and
118

119 WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that expansion of high-speed broadband internet
120 access throughout Chippewa County is key to the economic vitality of the County and therefore
121 providing financial assistance to Bloomer Telephone to help qualify for this ARPA funding is
122 necessary and appropriate; and
123

124 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, the County Board authorized the use of \$500,000 of
125 ARPA funds to be used for broadband expansion to the unserved and underserved citizens of
126 Chippewa County; and
127

128 WHEREAS, any County ARPA funding must be utilized by Bloomer Telephone by
129 September 30, 2024; and
130

131 WHEREAS, the County Administrator is recommending that \$328,818 of the \$500,000 be
132 approved to be used as part of Bloomer Telephone's application for Broadband Expansion
133 Grant Program funding;
134

135 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors

does hereby support the PSC \$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 \$328,818 in funds as part of the Bloomer Telephone Broadband Expansion Grant Program grant application and that if that application is approved, that \$328,818 be provided to the Bloomer Telephone expansion project as agreed by the County and Bloomer Telephone.

Forwarded to the County Board by the County Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total Project Cost	\$9,786,634
Total Grant Request	\$7,116,316
Bloomer Telephone Contribution	\$1,597,500
Total Contribution of the Towns	\$94,000
Chippewa County Contribution	\$328,818

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

03/8/2022 County Board
RESULT: APPROVED [10 TO 4]
MOVER: James Mickelson, District 8
SECONDER: Ken Schmitt, District 3
AYES: Gullickson, Schmitt, McMenamin, Hauser, Mickelson, Shipman, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt, McGill
NAYS: Glen Sikorski, Harold Steele, James Ericksen, Charlene Kervina
EXCUSED: Chuck Hull

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls
 Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

3/1/2022

Lori Zwiefelhofer
 Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

3/1/2022

Randy B. Scholz
 Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

3/1/2022



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO NTERA, LLC FOR A BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE TOWNS OF CLEVELAND AND RUBY

1 Passage of this resolution will reauthorize the payment of American Rescue Plan Act
 2 (ARPA) funds to Ntera, LLC to be used to complete a broadband expansion project in the Towns
 3 of Cleveland and Ruby. On March 8, 2022, the County Board approved Resolution No. 07-22,
 4 which authorized the payment of \$171,182.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to
 5 Ntera, LLC. That funding was to be used as part of Ntera's Broadband Expansion Grant Program
 6 grant application for the expansion of broadband to 316 unserved and underserved locations in
 7 the Towns of Anson, Arthur, Cleveland, Eagle Point, Estella, Goetz, and Ruby. The payment of
 8 the \$171,182.00 ARPA funds was contingent on Ntera's grant application being approved by the
 9 Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin. However, Ntera, LLC was informed earlier this
 10 year that that Broadband Expansion Grant Program application was denied by the PSC.

11 Since the denial of the application, Ntera, LLC has been in contact with Chippewa County
 12 and has stated that it is still interested in completing a broadband expansion project in 2023
 13 that would provide broadband to 69 unserved and underserved locations in the Towns of
 14 Cleveland and Ruby. Ntera, LLC has proposed that this new, downsized project would be
 15 financed by Ntera, LLC and the funding that Chippewa County had committed to Ntera, LLC
 16 with the passage of Resolution 07-22. The County Administrator and the Finance Director have
 17 reviewed this new Ntera, LLC broadband expansion proposal and Ntera is
 18 requesting \$171,182.00 of ARPA funding that was originally approved as part of Resolution 07-
 19 22 be reauthorized to Ntera, LLC to be used to complete the proposed broadband expansion in
 20 the Towns of Cleveland and Ruby.

21

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING TO NTERA, LLC FOR A BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE TOWNS OF CLEVELAND AND RUBY

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2022, the County Board approved the attached Resolution No. 07-22, which authorized the payment of \$171,182.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Ntera, LLC to be used as part of Ntera's Broadband Expansion Grant Program grant application for the expansion of broadband to 316 unserved and underserved locations in the Towns of Anson, Arthur, Cleveland, Eagle Point, Estella, Goetz, and Ruby; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 07-22 also made the payment of the \$171,182.00 of ARPA funds contingent on Ntera's grant application being approved by the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Ntera, LLC was informed earlier this year that their Broadband Expansion Grant Program application for broadband expansion as set out above was denied by the PSC; and

WHEREAS, Ntera, LLC has been in contact with Chippewa County and has stated that it is still interested in completing a broadband expansion project in 2023 that would provide broadband to 69 unserved and underserved locations in the Towns of Cleveland and Ruby and that would be financed by Ntera, LLC and the funding that Chippewa County committed in Resolution 07-22; and

WHEREAS, the proposed broadband expansion project is illustrated in the attached map and the cost of the project is set out in the attached Ntera Cost Breakdown; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator and the Finance Director have reviewed this new Ntera, LLC broadband expansion proposal and Ntera is requesting that the \$171,182.00 of ARPA funding that was originally approved as part of Resolution 07-22 be provided to Ntera, LLC to be used to complete the proposed broadband expansion in the Towns of Cleveland and Ruby;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the payment of \$171,182.00 of ARPA funds to Ntera, LLC for the completion of a broadband expansion project in the Towns of Cleveland and Ruby as set out above and in the attachments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Ntera, LLC provide a report to the County Board at the December 12, 2023 meeting on the project and how it benefited citizens of Chippewa County.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$171,182 of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

01/17/2023 Executive Committee

RESULT: FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS] Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM

MOVER: Harold Steele, District 2

SECONDER: Jason Bergeron, District 7

AYES: Dean Gullickson, Ken Schmitt, Harold Steele, Jason Bergeron

EXCUSED: Glen Sikorski

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls
Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

12/14/2022

Lori Zwiefelhofer
Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

12/14/2022

Randy B. Scholz
Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

12/15/2022

78

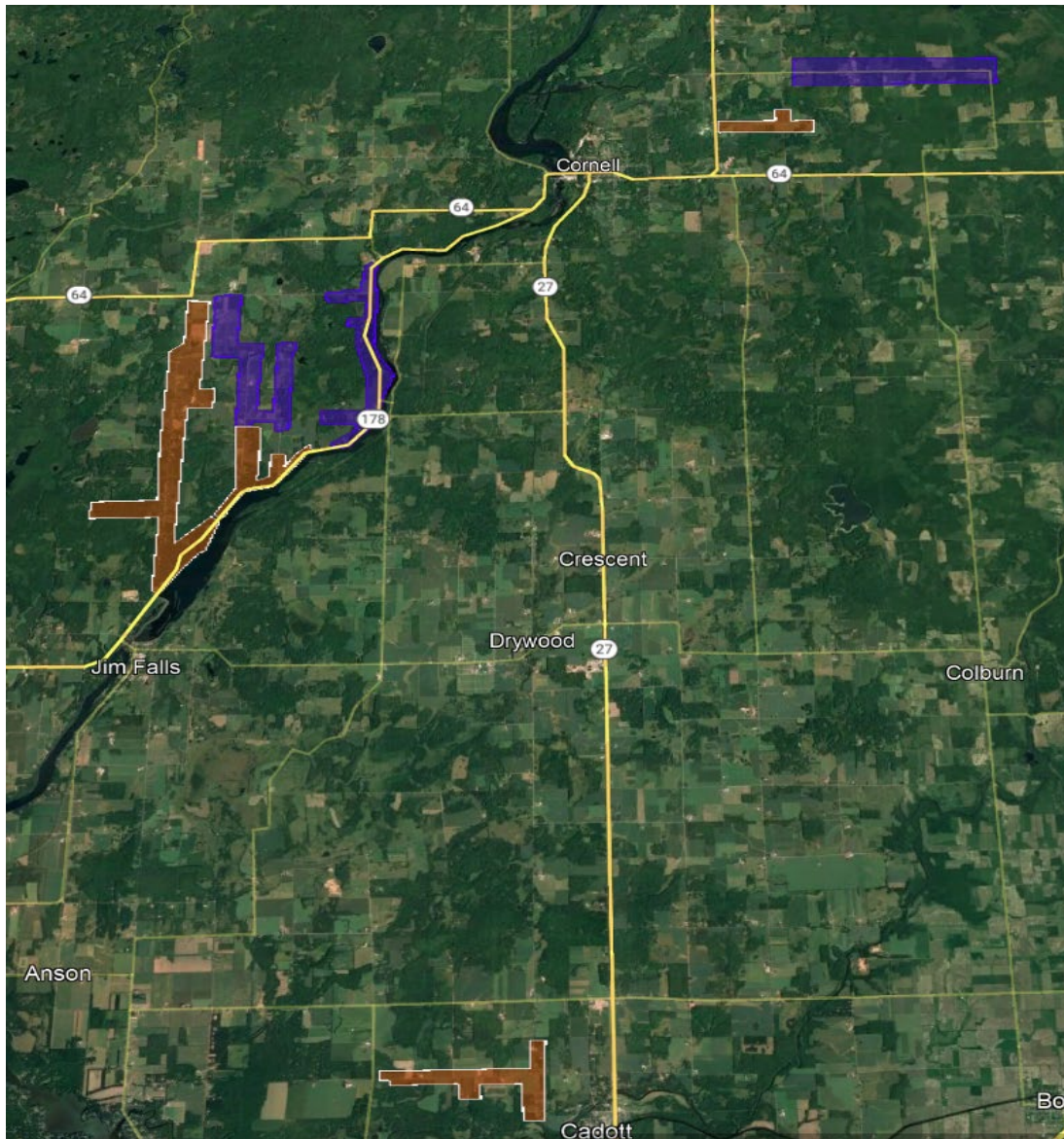
NTERA REVISED REQUEST – OPTION 2

From: Ryan Hartzell <rhartzell@Citizens-Connected.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 11:53 AM

To go along with original proposal for Executive Committee, I would also like to present an idea that would serve 208 subs in Chippewa County with the \$14million grant from the PSC that is due Feb. 22nd.

Please review the map with original and extended areas. We would apply for the grant with a breakdown that follows the map. Regardless on getting the grant or not we would still do the original proposal.



FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application

Budget & Income Summary

Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

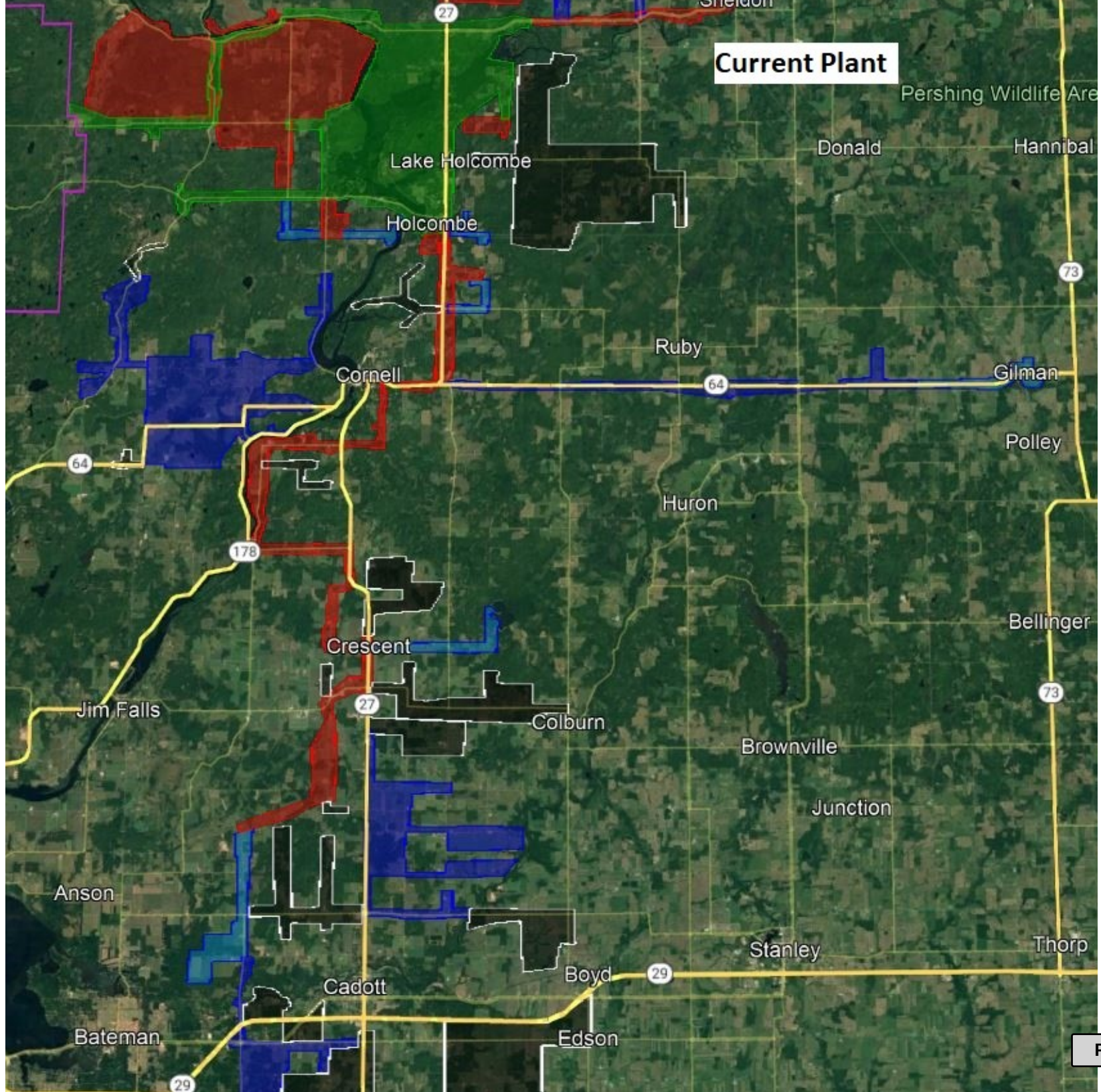
Grant Applicant:	Project:

Budget

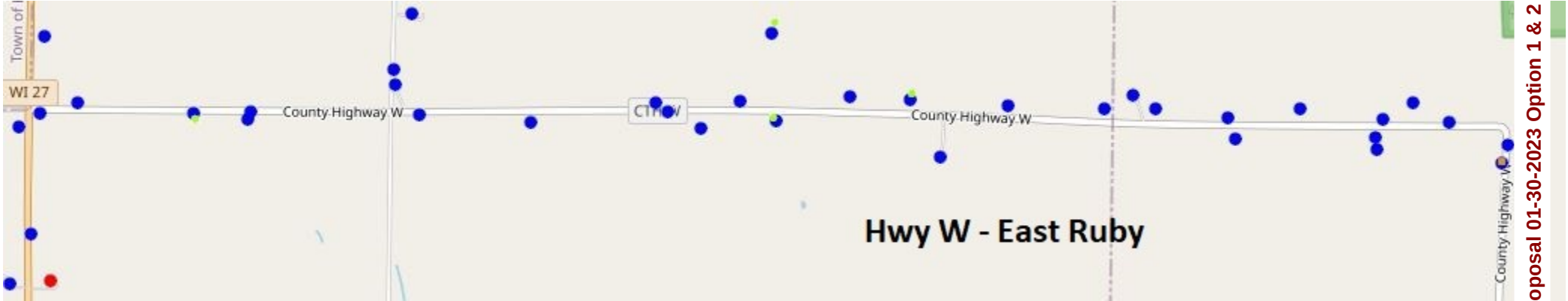
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 589,563.25	\$ 589,563.25	\$ 1,179,126.50
2	Equipment	\$ 44,772.50	\$ 44,772.50	\$ 89,545.00
3	Supplies			\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe)			\$ -
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ 1,630.00	\$ 1,630.00	\$ 3,260.00
6	Travel			\$ -
7	Other			\$ -
Total:		\$ 635,965.75	\$ 635,965.75	\$ 1,271,931.50
		50.0% match requested		

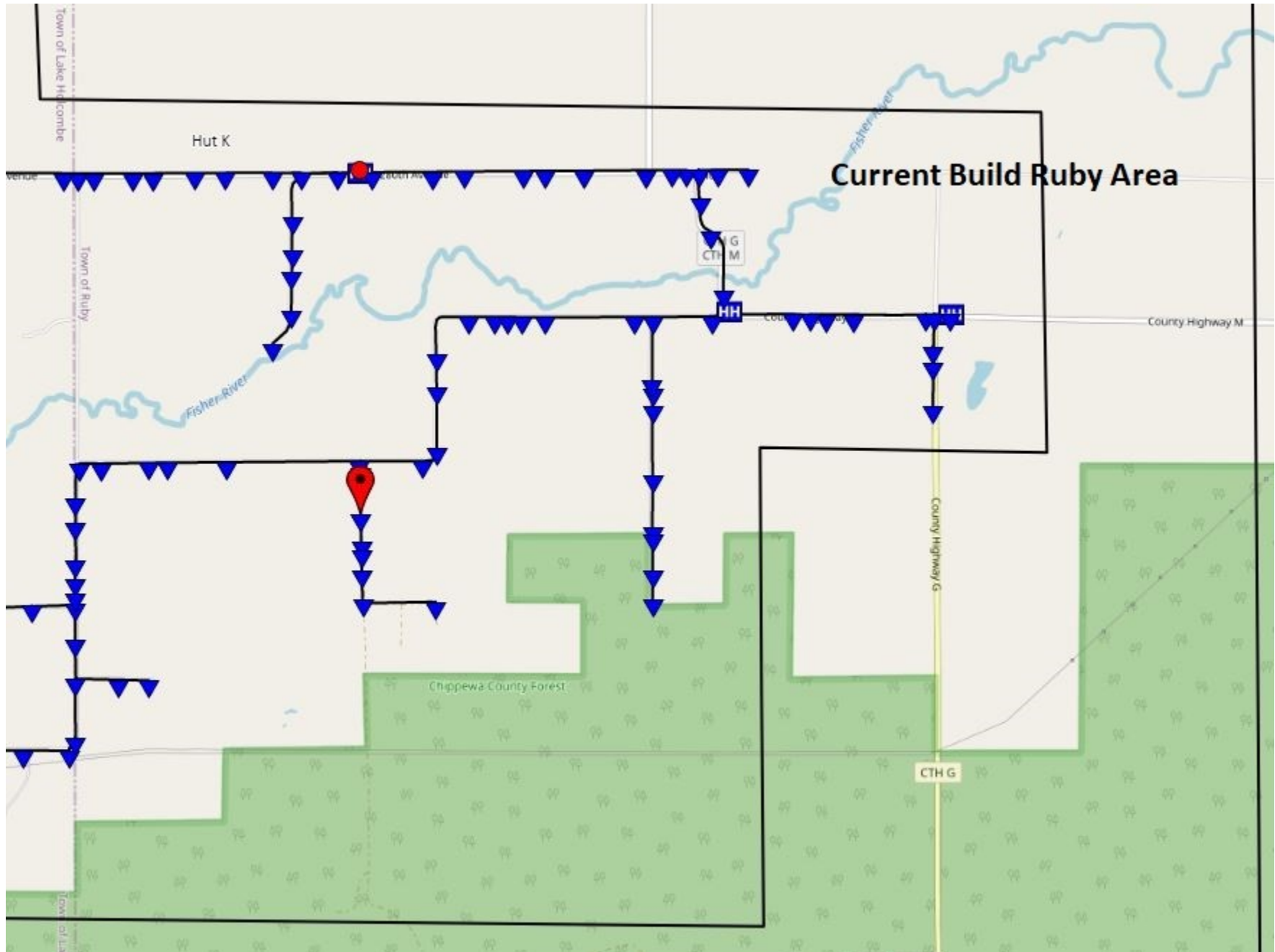
Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Chippewa County	Partner	Cash	\$ 171,000.00
2	Ntera, LLC	Applicant	Cash	\$ 464,965.75
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 635,965.75



OPTION 2





12 01 2022

Chippewa County Board Members
Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Board Members,

Please review the documentation pertaining to the Ntera FTTH projects for the townships of Cleveland and Ruby. Along with this cover letter, we have included the project contributions for the organizations and a map showing the locations of the projects.

The break down of funds are as follows.

Total Cost of Projects	\$444,500
PSC Grant Requests	\$0
Total Ntera Contribution	\$273,318
Total Town's Contribution	\$0
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$171,182
Total Locations	69

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 65%, 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 1,400 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.

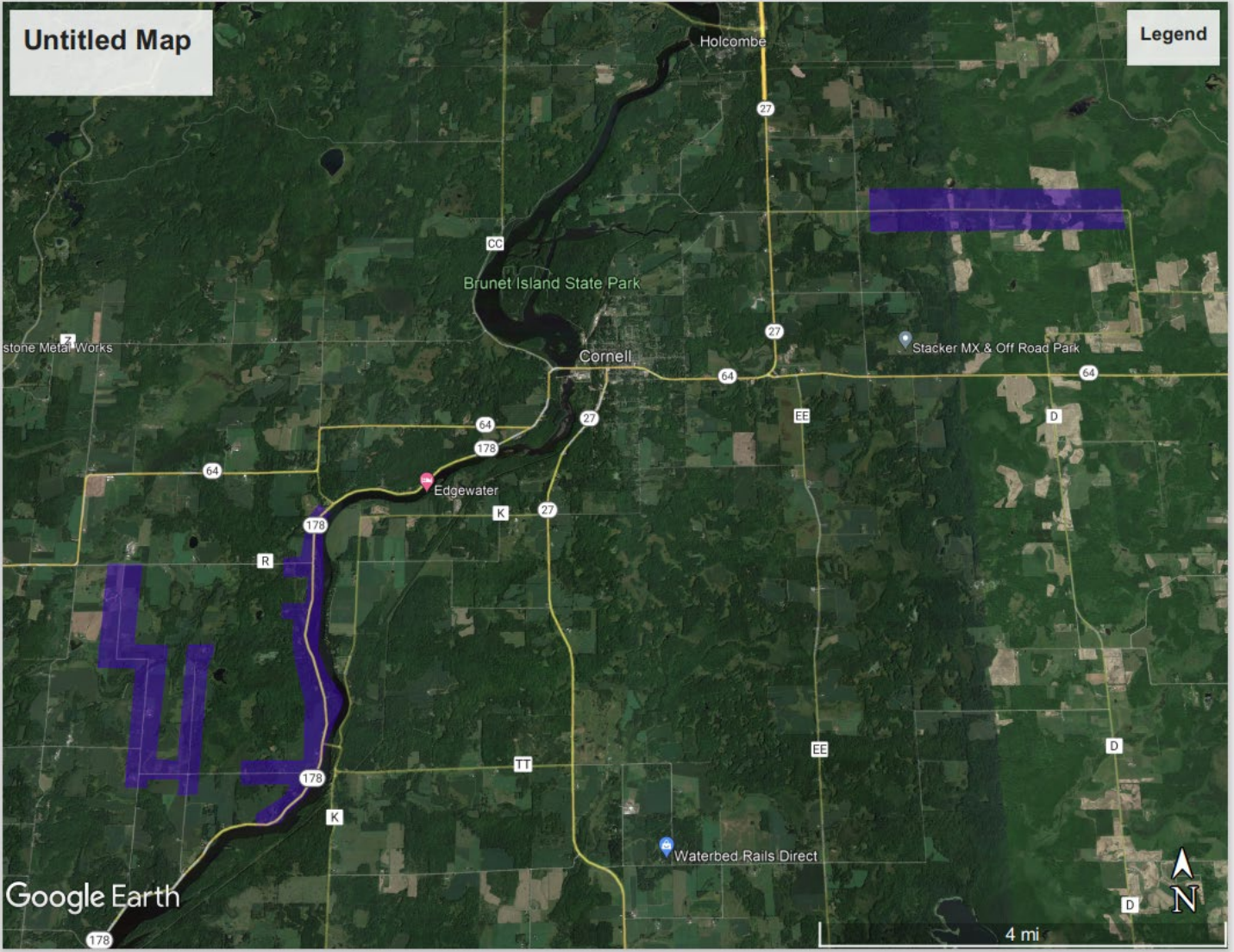
Ntera Cost Breakdown

12/1/2022

Area	Approx Subs	Approx Miles	Approx Cost
CTH W	23	3.1	\$ 108,500.00
STH 178	28	5.1	\$ 178,500.00
210th St	18	4.5	\$ 157,500.00
TOTAL	69	12.7	\$ 444,500.00

TOTAL	\$ 444,500.00	
Chippewa County	\$ 171,000.00	\$2478 Per sub
NTERA/Others	\$ 273,500.00	\$3963.76 per sub

Note Cost is based on \$35,000 per mile



Attachment: Ntera Revised ARPA Proposal 01-30-2023 Option 1 & 2 [Revision 1] (7463 : Resolution to Reauthorize ARPA Funds to Ntera, LLC)



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No. 07 - 22

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

1 Passage of this resolution will provide matching funds for Ntera, LLC as it applies to the
2 Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin for funding from the Broadband Expansion Grant
3 Program to provide broadband services to unserved and underserved areas of Chippewa
4 County that are in Ntera's service area. This provision of local government matching funds will
5 help Ntera qualify for the grant funding from the PSC.

6 On July 20, 2021, the County Board approved Resolution 21-21 which approved
7 \$531,657.06 of matching funds for Ntera to use as part of its application to the PSC for a
8 Broadband Expansion Grant to be used in the Towns of Wheaton and Howard. In October
9 2021, Ntera was approved for over \$1.9 million in grant funding for the projects in the Towns of
10 Wheaton and Howard.

11 The PSC has now allocated an additional \$100 million in funding for the Broadband
12 Expansion Grant Program and applications for these grants are due by March 17, 2022. The
13 purpose of the funding is again to be used for the expansion of high-speed broadband internet
14 to the unserved and underserved areas of the State of Wisconsin. The State Broadband Office
15 at the (PSC) coordinates broadband investment, develops broadband coverage maps, and
16 manages the Broadband Expansion Grant Program.

17 To expand high-speed broadband internet access to the unserved and the underserved
18 areas of the State of Wisconsin, and more specifically in Chippewa County, it will be the local
19 telecommunications companies (Telcos), such as Ntera, LLC, that will be installing the
20 infrastructure necessary to accomplish that goal. Ntera is requesting that Chippewa County
21 again provide matching funds as part of its application for broadband expansion funding from
22 the PSC. On February 24, 2022, the County Board tentatively approved \$500,000 of funding for
23 local Telcos, such as Ntera, to apply for a PSC Broadband Expansion Grant. The County
24 Administrator is recommending that of that \$500,000, \$171,182 be approved for Ntera LLC's
25 PSC application.

26 Chippewa County believes that providing funding for Ntera's grant applications is an
27 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.” If this resolution is approved, Ntera would be eligible to receive \$171,182.00 in funding from Chippewa County if their application to the PSC is approved. Those funds would come from the County’s ARPA funds.

NTERA, LLC is requesting that Chippewa County contribute funding along with the Towns of Arthur, Ruby, Cleveland, and Anson. The Ntera broadband expansion project would provide coverage in the Towns of Arthur, Ruby, Cleveland, Estella, Goetz, Eagle Point, and Anson. The Towns of Arthur, Ruby, Cleveland and Anson have agreed to provide a total of \$45,000 of funding as part of Ntera LLC’s application to the PSC, as follows:

Arthur - \$10,000;

Ruby - \$15,000;

Cleveland - \$15,000; and

Anson - \$5,000.

Note that during the application process for Broadband Expansion Grant funding in July 2021, the Town of Goetz agreed to provide \$10,000 in funds and the Town of Eagle Point agreed to provide \$300,000 in funds. The Town of Estella has not agreed to provide funds for this request or as part of the July 2021 application process.

Passage of this resolution will commit \$171,182 of ARPA funds that the County received from the Federal Government to be used as part of NTERA, LLC’s PSC application. Ntera will be applying for a broadband expansion project that would serve 316 locations at a total project cost of \$2,196,803. NTERA, LLC will be requesting that the State of Wisconsin provide grant funds of \$1,537,760 and NTERA, LLC would fund \$442,861 of the total project cost.

Resolution No. 07 - 22

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

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin is allocating an additional \$100 million in funding for the Broadband Expansion Grant Program, similar to the broadband expansion funding the PSC was offering in July 2021; and

WHEREAS, applications for this newest round of Broadband Expansion Grant Program funding must be filed with the PSC by March 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this funding is to continue the process of providing high-speed broadband access to the unserved and underserved 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 Broadband Expansion 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 this PSC 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 goals of the PSC 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 Final Rule released by the Department of U. S. Treasury; and

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

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2021, the County Board passed Resolution 21-21, which approved

95 \$531,657.06 of ARPA funds to be used by the Telco, Ntera LLC, as part of its July 2021
96 Broadband Expansion Grant application with the PSC; and

97
98 WHEREAS, Ntera LLC's July 2021 grant application was approved by the PSC in October
99 2021 for broadband expansion projects in the Towns of Wheaton and Howard, in part due to
100 the matching funds provided by Chippewa County and the effected towns; and

101
102 WHEREAS, Ntera, LLC is now in the process of making another application for funding
103 from the Broadband Expansion Grant Program and is requesting that the State of Wisconsin
104 provide \$1,537,760 of the total project cost of \$2,196,803 and that Ntera, LLC would provide
105 \$442,861 in funding; and

106
107 WHEREAS, the Town of Arthur has agreed to contribute \$10,000 of funds, the Town of
108 Ruby has agreed to contribute \$15,000 of funds, the Town of Cleveland has agreed to
109 contribute \$15,000 of funds, and the Town of Anson has agreed to contribute \$5,000 of funds
110 for a total of \$45,000 of funds as part of the NTERA, LLC application for broadband expansion
111 grant funding; and

112 WHEREAS, Ntera, LLC has again requested that Chippewa County provide matching
113 funding to assist in the broadband expansion in Chippewa County; and

114
115 WHEREAS, the total number of locations that would be served by this broadband
116 expansion would be 316; and

117
118 WHEREAS, Chippewa County believes that expansion of high-speed broadband internet
119 access throughout Chippewa County is key to the economic vitality of the County and therefore
120 providing financial assistance to Ntera, LLC to help qualify for this ARPA funding is necessary
121 and appropriate; and

122
123 WHEREAS, any County ARPA funding must be utilized by Ntera LLC by September 30,
124 2024; and

125
126 WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, the County Board authorized the use of \$500,000 of
127 ARPA funds to be used for broadband expansion to the unserved and underserved citizens of
128 Chippewa County; and

129
130 WHEREAS, the County Administrator is recommending that \$171,182 of the \$500,000 be
131 approved to be used as part of Ntera LLC's application for Broadband Expansion Grant Program
132 funding;

133
134 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors
135 does hereby support the PSC \$100 million initiative to expand high-speed broadband internet
136 access to the unserved and underserved in Wisconsin, and more particularly in Chippewa
137 County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chippewa County shall provide \$171,182 in funds as part of the Ntera, LLC Broadband Expansion Grant Program grant application and that if that application is approved, that \$171,182 be provided to the Ntera LLC expansion project as agreed by the County and Ntera LLC.

Forwarded to the County Board by the County Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total Project Cost	\$2,196,803
Total Grant Request	\$1,537,760
NTERA, LLC Contribution	\$442,861
Total Contribution of the Towns	\$45,000
Chippewa County Contribution	\$171,182

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

03/8/2022 County Board

RESULT: APPROVED [12 TO 2]

MOVER: Annette Hunt, District 13

SECONDER: Ronald McGill, District 15

AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, McMenamin, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hunt, McGill

NAYS: James Mickelson, Charlene Kervina

EXCUSED: Chuck Hull

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

3/1/2022

Lori Zwiefelhofer

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

3/1/2022

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

3/1/2022

1 March 2022

Chippewa County Board Members
Chippewa County, Wisconsin

Board Members,

Please review the documentation pertaining to the Ntera FTTH projects for the townships of Anson, Arthur, Cleveland, Eagle Point, Estella, Goetz, and Ruby. Along with this cover letter, we have included the project contributions for the organizations and a map showing the locations of the projects.

The break down of funds are as follows.

Total Cost of Projects	\$2,196,803
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,537,760
Total Ntera Contribution	\$442,861
Total Town's Contribution	\$45,000
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$171,182
Total Locations	316

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 60%, 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 1,200 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.

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE COMPENSATION AND MILEAGE
REIMBURSEMENT FOR UP TO 100 DAYS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN
2023**

1 Passage of this resolution will authorize compensation and mileage reimbursement for
2 County Board Supervisors for attending committee meetings up to 100 days in 2023. Section
3 59.13(2)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes limits the number of days for which compensation and
4 mileage may be paid to supervisors to 30 days per year in Chippewa County. However, the
5 County Board may increase the number of days for which compensation may be paid for
6 attendance at committee meetings by a 2/3 vote of the members present.

7 This resolution will allow any supervisor who attends more than 30 days of committee
8 meetings in 2023 to be compensated and to receive reimbursement for mileage. That
9 compensation and mileage reimbursement will be equivalent to that paid for the first 30 days
10 of committee meetings in 2023, as set out in Sec. 2-71 of the Chippewa County Code of
11 Ordinances.

12 This resolution was initially approved in 2018, in part due to the number of committee
13 meetings that supervisors were attending after the downsizing of the County Board in 2012
14 from 29 members to 15 members. This resolution was again approved by the County Board in
15 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 to ensure compensation and mileage for committee meetings
16 attended beyond the 30 days set out in statute. Now that the County Board size increased to
17 21 members in April of 2022, it is unclear whether or not any of the supervisors will be
18 attending more than 30 days of committee meetings in 2023. If that does occur in 2023,
19 payment for per diem and mileage will be ensured by passage of this resolution.

Resolution No.

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE COMPENSATION AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR UP TO
100 DAYS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN 2023**

WHEREAS, the number of committee meetings attended by each supervisor increased dramatically after the downsizing of the County Board in 2012 from 29 members to 15 members; and

WHEREAS, the County Board size increased from 15 members to 21 members effective in April 2022; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear at this time what the number of member meetings each supervisor will need to attend in 2023 and it has been the practice of the County Board since 2018 to ensure that each supervisor receives per diem and mileage for all meetings attended over the 30 days set out in the statute below; and

WHEREAS, Section 59.13(2)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes, "Committees; Appointment; Compensation" states as follows:

(2) Except as provided under sub. (3), committee members shall receive such compensation for their services as the board allows, not exceeding the per diem and mileage allowed to members of the board and the committee members shall receive such compensation, mileage and reimbursement for other expenses as the board allows for their attendance at any school, institute or meeting which the board directs them to attend. No supervisor shall be allowed pay for committee service while the board is in session, nor for mileage except in connection with services performed within the time limited under this subsection. The number of days for which compensation and mileage may be paid a committee member in any year, except members of committees appointed to have charge of the erection of any county building, and except as otherwise provided by law, are limited as follows:

(b) In counties with a population of 25,000 or more, to 30 days for services on committees, except that the board may, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, increase the number of days for which compensation and mileage may be paid in any year and fix the compensation for each additional day.; and

WHEREAS, increasing the number of days for which compensation and mileage may be paid to supervisors will ensure that supervisors are appropriately compensated for the work that they do while serving on all the various assigned committees; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the number of days for which compensation is paid should be increased to 100 per year and that all days reimbursed through per diem and mileage should be compensated in the same manner as compensation is currently paid pursuant to Sec. 2-71 of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize that the number of days that supervisors are entitled to compensation for attending committee meetings is increased to 100 days per year for 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the compensation for all days for service on committees over 30 days in 2023 shall be compensated in the same manner as the first 30 days of committee meetings were compensated, including reimbursement for mileage, pursuant to Sec. 2-71 of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

It is unclear what the fiscal impact will be to Chippewa County, but it is anticipated that the funds necessary to cover all per diems and mileage reimbursement of the County Board Supervisors were budgeted for 2023 based on per diem payment history.

01/17/2023 Executive Committee

RESULT: FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD [UNANIMOUS] Next: 2/14/2023 6:00 PM

MOVER: Harold Steele, District 2

SECONDER: Jason Bergeron, District 7

AYES: Dean Gullickson, Ken Schmitt, Harold Steele, Jason Bergeron

EXCUSED: Glen Sikorski

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls

Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

12/13/2022

Lori Zwiefelhofer

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

12/13/2022

Randy B. Scholz

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

12/13/2022