

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 20, 2021

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 7 (Chair)	Present	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 2 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
Chuck Hull	Chippewa County	District 14	Present	
Mechele Shipman	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 13	Present	

Others Present: Randy Scholz, Traci Bremness, Toni Hohlfelder, Ryan Hartzell, Andy Bauer, Todd Pauls, Charlie Walker, Kent Kilma, Jim Sherman, Jim Kusilek

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
SECONDER:	Chuck Hull, District 14
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Executive Committee - Regular Meeting - Jul 6, 2021 4:00 PM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - August 3, 2021

5. REPORTS

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Resolution to Approve Chippewa County American Rescue Plan Act Guidelines and Procedure for Allocating ARPA Funds – Randy Scholz

Scholz explained this document identifies the procedure that will be used to allocate Chippewa County ARPA funds. This process is similar to the process we use for the CIP Plan. It's important to keep in mind that if we spend money on something that doesn't qualify then we need to pay it back. Funds need to be

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allocated by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026.

Shipman asked if the criteria is similar to what WCA and other counties are doing. Scholz indicated that the WCA hasn't provided anything and other counties are preparing similar documents and bringing them to their County Boards for approval. Some counties have already spent money without knowing all of the rules.

Hull asked if there is a review process in place to continue monitoring if it is in compliance. Scholz indicated the County will use an outside auditing firm help us monitor that.

Shipman commented that it's important that there is an approval process in place but that we still allow some flexibility. Scholz stated one of the benefits of the CIP process is it allows the County Board to see what is on the radar for the future even though you aren't committing to it; only year by year.

Hunt asked if the tracking software is yet or if we know what it looks like. Scholz indicated the guidelines on what we have to report are not done yet and the software portal is not done yet either. We continue to wait for more guidance from the US Treasury.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/20/2021 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9	
SECONDER:	Chuck Hull, District 14	
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt	

2. 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

Scholz indicated the companies are responsible for the same reporting requirements with the state and the County. The County will ultimately be responsible for the records. This process has been extremely rushed but the timeline is required in order to meet the July 27th deadline set by the Governor.

Jim Kusilek, West Wisconsin Telcom, explained in 2008 they completed a fiber to home project for all of their subscribers. These ARPA funds are going to be done through 24/7 Telcom, which is their subsidiary. They have been in operation since 1998 and started providing service in 2000. They have been expanding their network since 2000-2008 and continuing since then. They started applying for broadband grants since 2016 to expand their network. With these ARPA projects they have two towns with footprints, Wheaton and Howard. They don't currently service 100% of those towns and this project would allow them to provide 100% service to them. They have gone to both of the towns and they have entered into a cooperative agreement with 24/7. They have committed to \$339,549. Their hope is the County will match that amount. The project will service 609 locations.

Hull asked what percentage of the 609 locations are subscribers. Kilma indicated that 70-75% are currently unserved.

Kilma discussed the application process and stated the announcement was released on 6/1/21. This didn't leave much time as the deadline is 7/27/21. Right now they have the town's commitment and are looking for a commitment from the County. As far as they know right now this is their only opportunity to go after the \$100 million that's currently available.

Gullickson asked what the break-even time is if everything goes as planned. Kilma indicated ideally if they

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can pay this back in three years that would be great.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/20/2021 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Annette Hunt, District 13	
SECONDER:	Chuck Hull, District 14	
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt	

3. Resolution to Support the Grant Application of Ntera, LLC to Help Qualify for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of Wisconsin – Randy Scholz/Ryan Hartzell

Scholz explained when Ntera LLC submitted their original proposal they had not yet secured the funding or commitment from the towns. We did not realize that so the resolution in the agenda packet was prepared based off their original proposal. Since that time, Ntera has secured commitment from the towns and they provided us with a revised proposal. The revised proposal is included in the agenda packet. The resolution, however, was not updated to reflect the new information. Scholz presented an amended version that shows the revisions to the resolution based off the new request from Ntera LLC (copy on file).

Ryan Hartzell, Ntera, reviewed a map of their existing area and the area they would like to expand to. They started to build out in 2017 and they expanded off their initial build. This project would allow them to serve an additional 481 people in the County. They have secured commitments from Delmar, Edson, Goetz, and Sigel. The towns have committed a total of \$45,000 and they would like the County to contribute \$531,657.06.

Shipman was disappointed to see that several towns would not provide a commitment.

Hunt asked if they have a sense of how much internet usage they have. For example, do the areas that have committed have a larger population of students that need it? Hartzell thinks there is a need everywhere but the towns don't want to commit. Due to the tight timeline it was difficult for Ntera to attend 10 town meetings in order to address the boards and answer their questions.

Scholz responded to a comment from 24/7 who stated they don't know if additional funds are coming. Scholz indicated there are additional funds included in the Governor's budget. Therefore, he anticipates the Telcos will probably come back later to request funds again. Part of the application process includes a point system and the more towns and entities you can get a commitment from gives the Telcos more points.

Hunt believes there is a need everywhere but she is concerned with equity and wants to ensure the towns are all treated fairly. Scholz commented the ARPA process does include a collaboration component with the towns to see if they are interested in partnering.

Shipman asked what the turnaround is once the grants are submitted. Walker indicated they are hoping for the 1st week in November.

Gullickson asked what their recap for investment is. Hartzell indicated 3-5 years.

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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	

4. 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 stated their company has eight employees. Their fiber projects started around 2004. Since then they have been focusing on areas around the Bloomer area that are unserved. Total project is \$3,753,849. They are asking the towns for \$425,000 and the County \$838,750. This project will serve Eagle Point and Tilden. The Highway 124/178 corridors are the bulk of the work. Their expectation for payback is 4-5 years for their own investment. He also noted that around years 7-10 the electronics on the network will need to be updated.

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 7/20/2021 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Chuck Hull, District 14	
SECONDER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9	
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt	

7. UPDATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. County Board Chair Report

B. County Administrator Operation Report

1. Update on 2022 Health Insurance and Possible Transition to a Self-Funded Health Program - Randy Scholz
- Scholz gave an update on the health insurance program and explained the County may transition to a self-funded health plan for 2022 (see memo on file). Scholz also explained there is a need for additional support staff in the Human Resources Division if we transition to self-funded health insurance and the Facilities & Parks Division has a need for additional help to assist with increased workload. Scholz plans to recommend a shared position to assist both divisions but he doesn't know yet if that request will be for a full-time or part-time position. That will be decided once we know for sure if we will transition to self-funded health insurance. The resolution for the new position will come forward at a later meeting.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
SECONDER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

JULY 6, 2021

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 7 (Chair)	Present	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 2 (Vice-Chair)	Excused	
Chuck Hull	Chippewa County	District 14	Present	
Mechele Shipman	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 13	Present	

Others present: Randy Scholz, Traci Bremness, Deb Blevins, Lee McMenamin, Andy Bauer, Todd Pauls, Lori Zwiefelhofer, Toni Hohlfelder

3. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

4. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Mechele Shipman, District 9
SECONDER: Annette Hunt, District 13
AYES: Gullickson, Hull, Shipman, Hunt
EXCUSED: Sikorski

1. Approve the Agenda

2. Approve the Minutes

Executive Committee - Regular Meeting - Jun 1, 2021 4:00 PM

3. Schedule Next Meeting Date - July 20, 2021

5. REPORTS

1. Update on Additional Funds for CDBG-CV Microenterprise Grant Program - Randy Scholz/Dean Gullickson
The current Grant Agreement was for a total of \$576,300, which consisted of \$510,000 to be disbursed in approximately 102 grants to eligible Low-or-Moderate Income (LMI) businesses in a 7-county region, along with \$66,300 in administrative expenses. According to the Microenterprise Grant Program's guidelines, each grant will be up to \$5,000.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 6, 2021 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)

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Due to greater than expected demand, the Program received a total of 179 eligible grant requests. The grant amount increased from \$576,300 to \$1,001,442.07. This amount will allow the Program to fund all 179 eligible requests at the amount requested, up to \$5,000 each, as well as increased administrative expenses of \$115,210.15 due to the additional workload.

RESULT:	REVIEWED	Next: 7/13/2021 6:00 PM
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6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Resolution to Disallow Claim of Ron Prochnow - Deb Blevins
Blevins gave an overview of the claim and explained it is the recommendation of our insurance carrier, WMMIC, that we disallow the claim.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chuck Hull, District 14
SECONDER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
AYES:	Gullickson, Hull, Shipman, Hunt
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

2. Resolution to Disallow Claim of Greg Stark - Deb Blevins
Blevins gave an overview of the claim and explained it is the recommendation of our insurance carrier, WMMIC, that we disallow the claim.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
SECONDER:	Chuck Hull, District 14
AYES:	Gullickson, Hull, Shipman, Hunt
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

7. UPDATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. County Board Chair Report

1. Update on Stormwater Agenda Item Request - Dean Gullickson
Gullickson explained he plans to have an agenda item on the July County Board agenda regarding the request made by Supervisor Shipman.

Gullickson stated this went to LCFM. When this program came up, the staff were asked what the cost is and they didn't know. Then they realized the contracts had expired. Since that time it was on the LCFM agenda and will be placed on the July County Board agenda. In order to facilitate some of the towns he will be asking the County Board for a recommendation to work with the town boards so this can be completed so they aren't left holding the bag. One week after we stopped the program, there was a document the towns needed to submit to the state and they didn't do it. He is going to bring that back to the County Board to send it back to the LCFM Committee to help rectify that. We need to document so we know what the true cost is.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 6, 2021 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)

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Scholz commented that this is a policy decision to determine whether the county wants to continue with the program. There is an ordinance that the towns can opt to participate in. We do have agreements with the towns that opted to do that (through Planning & Zoning). The second part is the maintenance and inspections and that's the part that's lacking. The agreements ran out and we continued to do the same thing for the same fee.

Gullickson stated this is a voluntary program; the county does not need to do this. His goal is to assist them through this year so they don't miss any dates and then they should have a good handle with it.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

B. County Administrator Operation Report

1. Update on ARPA Funding and Broadband Access - Randy Scholz

Scholz gave an update on the American Rescue Plan Act funding and the state initiative to increase broadband services across Wisconsin. (See letter on file) Scholz indicated that we are still waiting for more guidance and the US Treasury still doesn't have the reporting software ready.

Scholz explained with regard to broadband, we are responsible for everything that is required within the reporting guidelines. A while back the Governor allocated dollars for broadband. The deadline to submit applications is July 27th. Charlie Walker and Scholz met with the Telcos a while back and told them to put together a plan. The problem is that we are coming up on the deadline. One good thing, the reporting requirements for the state are the same as the federal. He asked the Telcos to submit a full plan by July 9th and clearly identify who will pay for what and how much. The Telcos did ask the townships if they would contribute dollars. The report will have that broken down.

At the July 20th Executive Committee meeting Scholz will present a draft procedure on how Chippewa County will spend the dollars. The problem is that this application deadline is before the County Board will be able to see the full plan. This will most likely require a special County Board meeting on July 20th after the regular Executive Committee meeting at 4:00.

RESULT: REVIEWED **Next: 7/13/2021 6:00 PM**

2. Update on Redistricting Process and Recommendation for County Board Size - Randy Scholz

Scholz gave an update on the redistricting process and the delay in getting information from the Census Bureau. See memo on file. As a result of the delay, the County Board will need to reconsider the prior direction to increase the size of the County Board.

RESULT: REVIEWED **Next: 7/13/2021 6:00 PM**

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 6, 2021 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)

Executive Committee

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July 6, 2021
4:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Annette Hunt, District 13
SECONDER:	Mechele Shipman, District 9
AYES:	Gullickson, Hull, Shipman, Hunt
EXCUSED:	Sikorski

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 6, 2021 4:00 PM (Consent Agenda)

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

Resolution No.

**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

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

MOVER: Mechele Shipman, District 9

SECONDER: Chuck Hull, District 14

AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt

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Approved as to Form:



Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/14/2021



Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

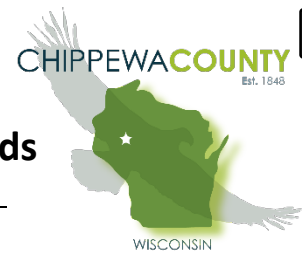
7/14/2021



Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/14/2021

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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

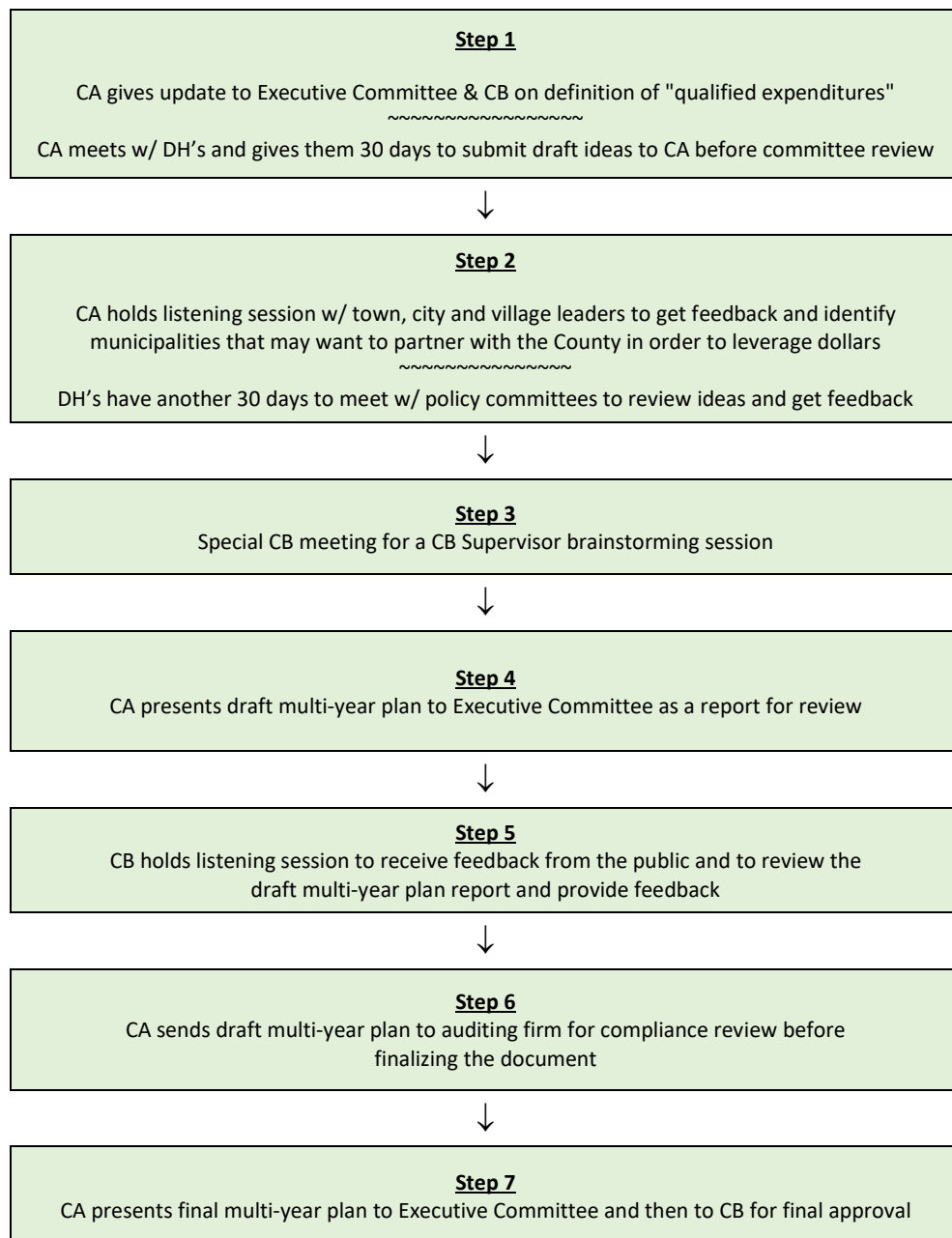
1. As soon as the final rule is released and the County Administrator has a thorough understanding of the definition for "qualified expenditures" the County Administrator will give a report to the Executive Committee and to the full County Board. The report will cover the current understanding of qualified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

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.)

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07/20/2021 Executive Committee
RESULT: RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL [UNANIMOUS] Next: 7/20/2021 6:00 PM
MOVER: Annette Hunt, District 13
SECONDER: Chuck Hull, District 14
AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt

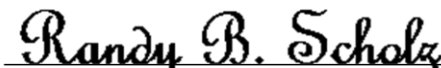
Approved as to Form:


Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

7/12/2021

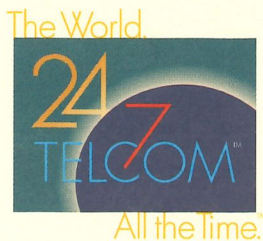

Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

7/12/2021


Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

7/12/2021

130



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

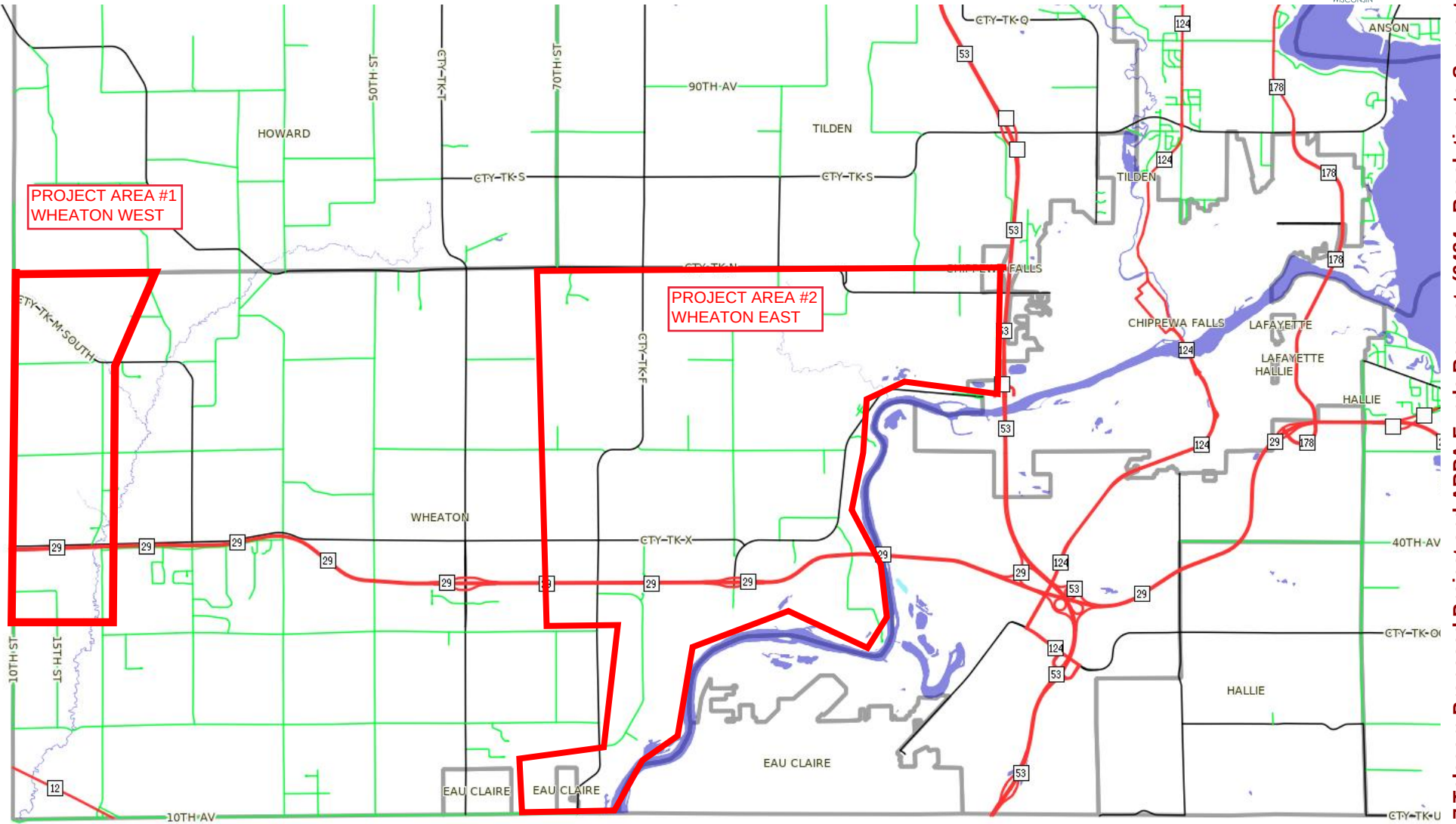
TOTALS

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'



6.2.a



Attachment: 24-7 Telecom Proposed Project and ARPA Funds Request (6484 : Resolution to Support 24/7

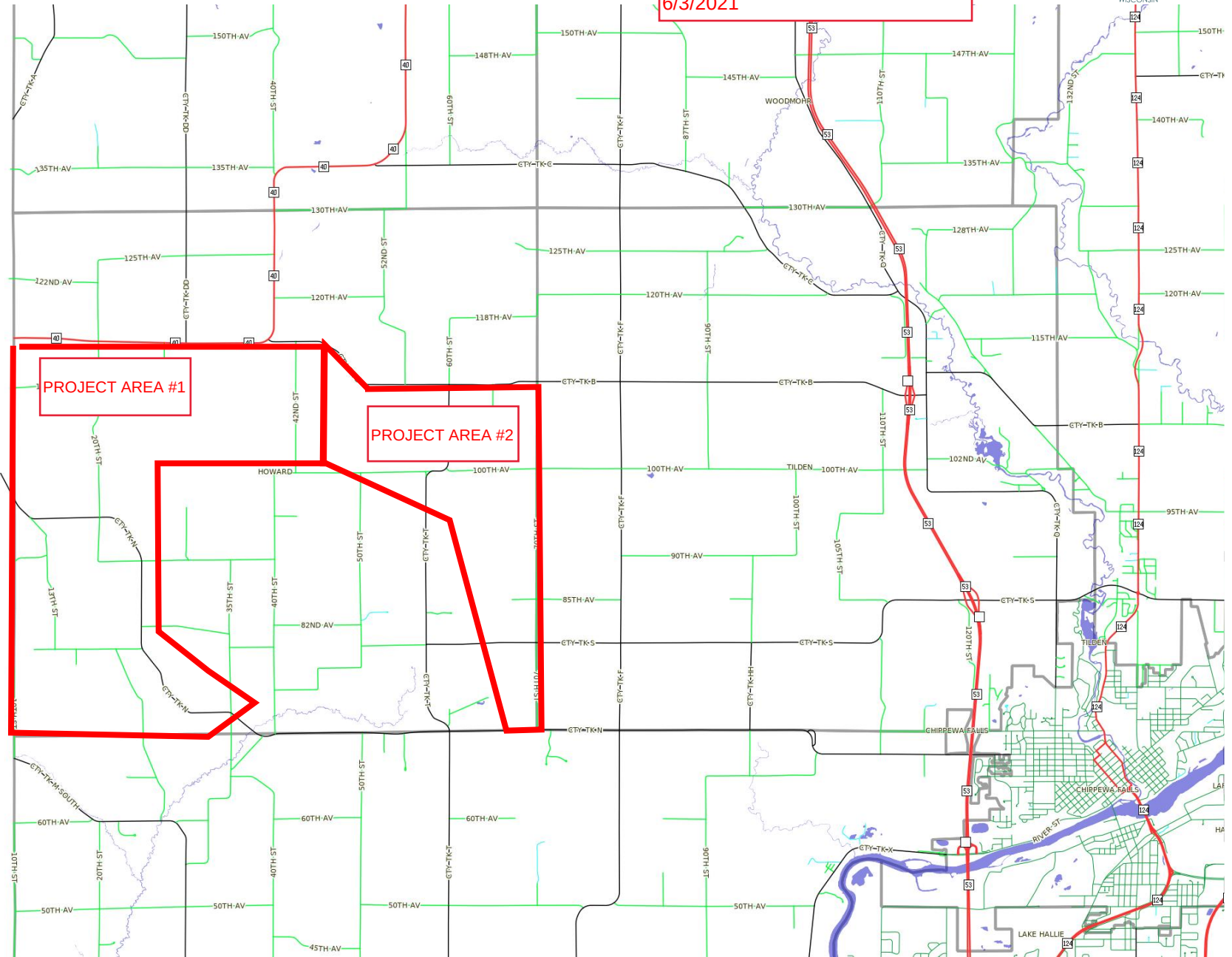
Disclaimer: This map is a compilation of records as they appear in the Chippewa County Offices affecting the area shown and is to be used only for reference purposes.

HOWARD

Printed 06/03/2021

Scale = 1:8506'

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



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. 25



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No.

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

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, 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 and Delmar as well. Both were interested and Delmar mentioned an unofficial \$15,000 contribution.

The break down of funds are as follows.

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,082,500.00
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,541,250.00
Total Ntera Contribution	\$710,435.88
Total Town's Contribution	\$415,407.06
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$415,407.06
Total Locations	411

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. Our active customer count is over 1,000.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

The Team at Ntera, LLC.

Town of Lake Holcombe FTTH Project

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

Town of Lake Holcombe Project Funding

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

Town of Ruby FTTH Project

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

Town of Ruby Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$97,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$32,500.00
Town of Ruby Contribution	\$32,500.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$32,500.00
	\$195,000.00

Town of Cleveland FTTH Project

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

Town of Cleveland Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$26,250.00
Ntera Contribution	\$8,750.00
Town of Cleveland Contribution	\$8,750.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$8,750.00
	\$52,500.00

Town of Estella FTTH Project

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

Town of Estella Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$63,750.00
Ntera Contribution	\$21,250.00
Town of Estella Contribution	\$21,250.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$21,250.00
	\$127,500.00

Town of Colburn FTTH Project

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

Town of Colburn Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$82,500.00
Ntera Contribution	\$27,500.00
Town of Colburn Contribution	\$27,500.00
Chippewa County Contribution	\$27,500.00
	\$165,000.00

Town of Arthur FTTH Project

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

Town of Arthur Project Funding

PSC Grant Request	\$333,750.00
Ntera Contribution	\$168,373.68
Town of Arthur Contribution	\$82,688.16
Chippewa County Contribution	\$82,688.16
	\$667,500.00

Town of Goetz FTTH Project

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

Town of Goetz Project Funding

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

Town of Sigel FTTH Project

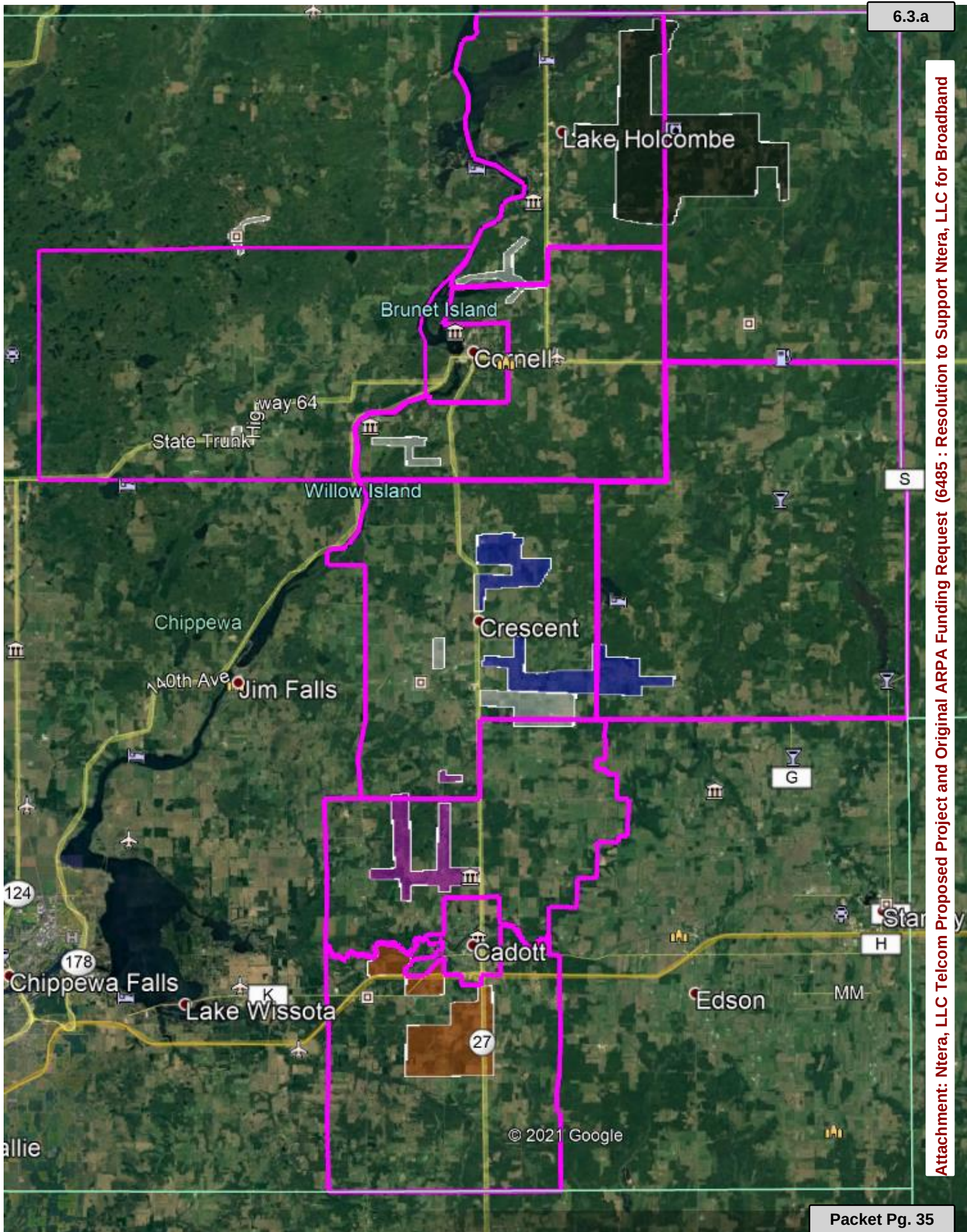
Total Cost of Project	\$1,050,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$114,507.40
Total Locations	140

Town of Sigel Project Funding

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

Totals

Total Cost of Projects	\$3,082,500.00
PSC Grant Requests	\$1,541,250.00
Total Ntera Contribution	\$710,435.88
Total Town's Contribution	\$415,407.06
Total Chippewa County Contribution	\$415,407.06
Total Locations	411





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

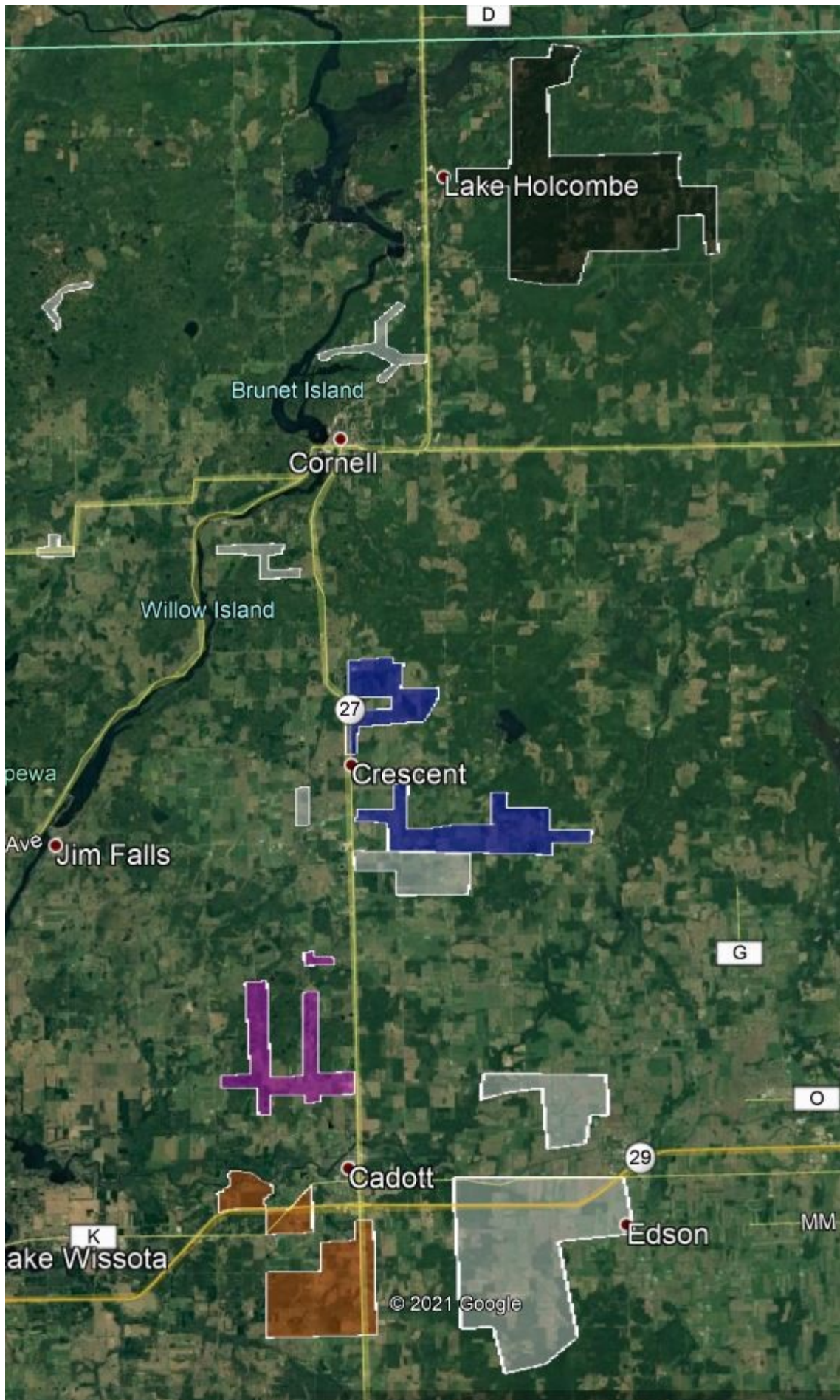
Total Cost of Project	\$1,050,000.00	\$1,050,000.00
Town's ARPA Funds Available	\$114,507.40	\$114,507.40
Total Locations	140	140

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




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, ~~982,500~~ <u>607,500</u> .00
Total Grant Request	\$1, ~~541,250~~ <u>803,750</u> .00
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>\$31,657.06</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



STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION

Resolution No.

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.

35

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

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

MOVER: Chuck Hull, District 14

SECONDER: Mechele Shipman, District 9

AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Hull, Shipman, Hunt

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

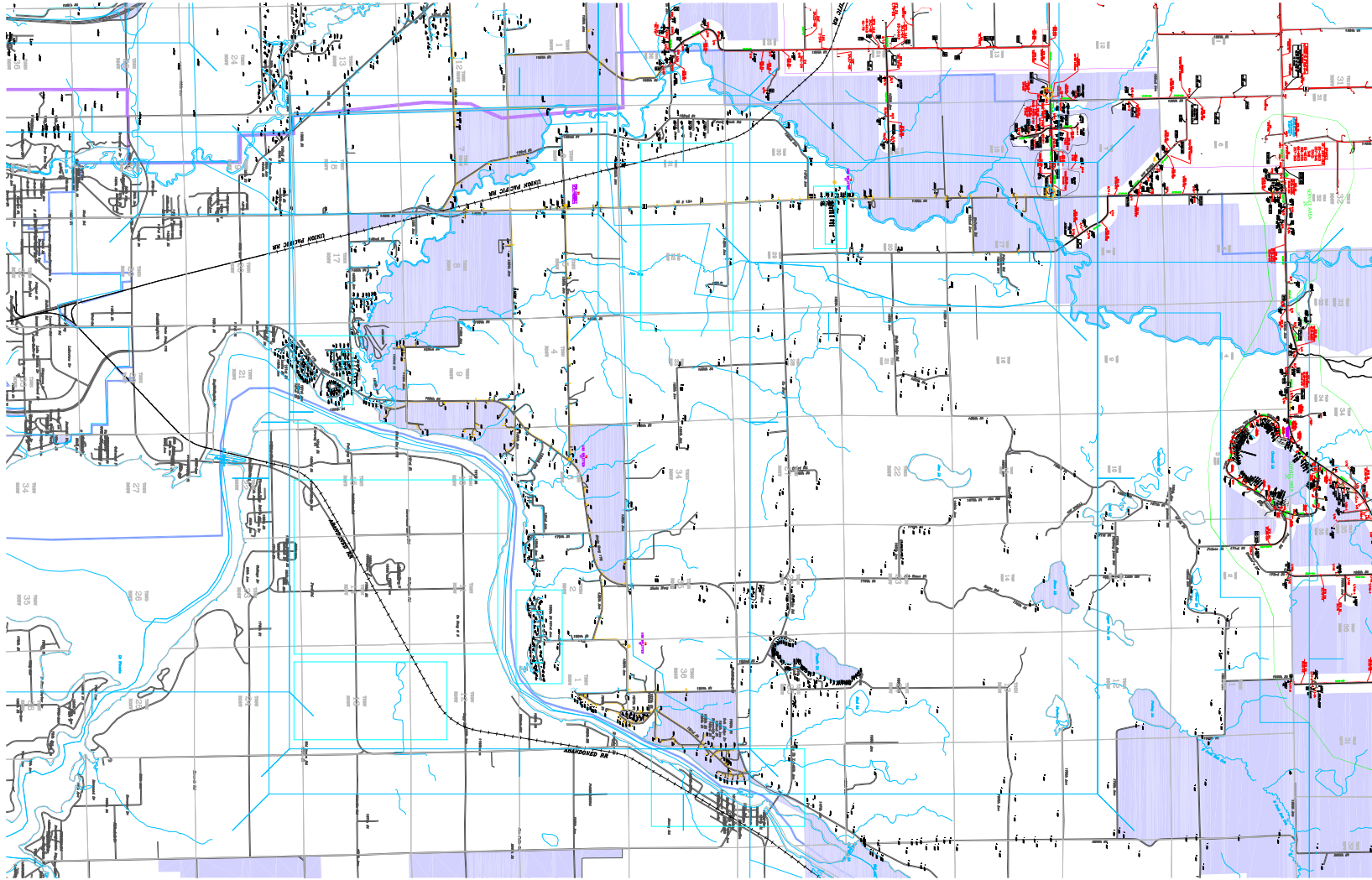
The scope of this project provides fiber to the areas identified as eligible for ARPA funding guidelines, within the County of Chippewa and the Townships of Tilden and Eagle Point.

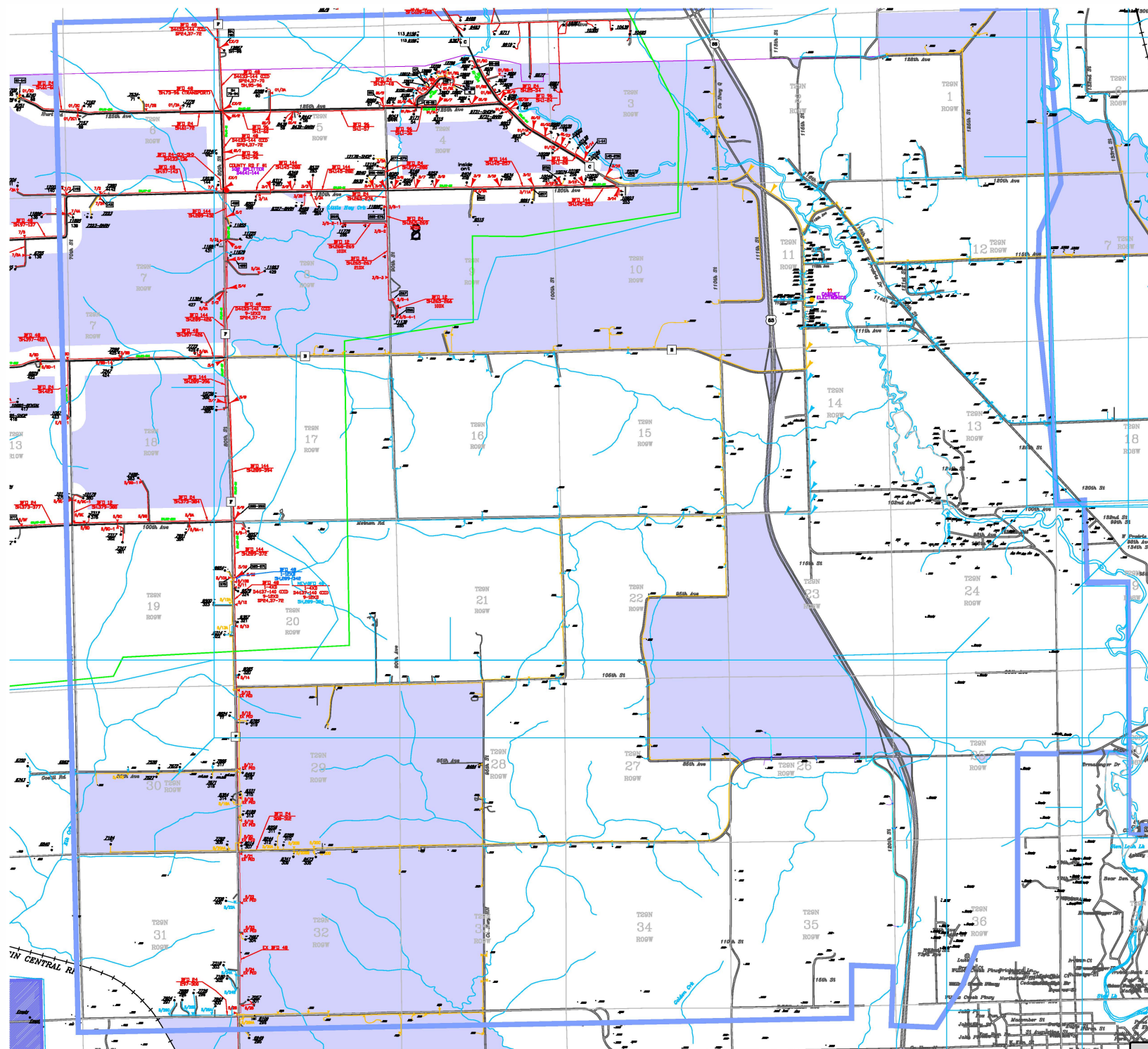
*In addition, we tasked our engineering partner to project the cost associated with building out the remaining parts of Tilden and Eagle Point Townships in areas.

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







Department of Administration

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

July 16, 2021

TO: County Board Supervisors

FR: Randy Scholz

RE: Recommendation to Transition to Self-Funded Health Insurance for 2022 and Request for Additional Staff Hours in the Human Resources and Facilities & Parks Divisions

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with an update on the health insurance program and the County Administrator's recommendation to transition to a self-funded health insurance plan for 2022. Additionally, we will also need additional hours in the Human Resources Division if we transition to self-funded health insurance. Also the Facilities & Parks Division is requesting to add additional hours to assist with increased workload in their Division.

TRANSITION TO A SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

One of my goals, as approved by the Executive Committee, for 2019 was health care reform and one of my 2020 goals was to work with the Human Resources Division to determine if the County should transition to a self-funded health insurance plan. Transitioning to a self-funded health insurance plan will allow the County flexibility in plan design and increased access to data to allow for better cost containment for both employees and the County.

Chippewa County's benefit broker, Hays Companies Inc. recommends that Chippewa County start the process to transition to a self-funded health insurance model. Hays Companies Inc. will not be able to provide the County with final health insurance rates until October or November of 2021.

Every year during the budget process I bring forward a resolution to allocate the dollars for the next year's health insurance program. If the County Board supports that resolution, then I work that amount into the overall County budget. I plan to bring that resolution to the August 3rd Executive Committee meeting and then to the County Board on August 10th. Even though we don't know yet if we will be transitioning to self-funded, the overall budgeted amount allocated to health insurance for 2022 will not change either way.

In addition, I intend to bring a separate resolution to the August 3rd Executive Committee and August 10th County Board meetings to have the County Board vote on whether you support transitioning to self-funded health insurance for 2022.

REQUEST FROM HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION AND FACILITIES & PARKS DIVISION FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

During the budget process, the Human Resource Director submitted a request for additional clerical support to assist the Division if the County transitions to self-funded health insurance. The HR Division currently has an LTE position and if we transition health insurance they would like to increase that position to part-time. Also during the budget process, the Facilities & Parks Director submitted a separate request for an LTE clerical support to assist their Division with increased workload.

After taking into consideration both requests, and the potential transition to self-funded health insurance, I am recommending a shared position to assist both Divisions. The official request for this will be done via a separate resolution in September when we know for sure if the County Board supports transitioning the health insurance, as that will determine whether the request will be for a part-time or full-time shared position.

The Facilities & Parks Division has seen a 68% increase in camping reservations since 2013. Camping reservations increased 12.8% from 2018 to 2019 and increased 25.7% from 2019 to 2020, and continue to increase in 2021. As a result, this has increased the workload, as well as revenue for the Division. In 2014, the County purchased and installed a Maintenance Management System (MMS) to assist the Division with work orders and to manage the schedule for preventative maintenance. Since then, they have experienced continued growth and workload in the office, leveling off at approximately 3,900 work orders in 2019 and 2020. The Chippewa County Public Firearms Range has experience continued growth since it opened in 2006. The range had 71 members in 2009 and increased to 539 in 2020 and this has increased workload in the office, as well as revenue for the Division.

The increased hours being requested for the Human Resources Division would be approximately 525 and the increased hours for the Facilities & Parks Division would be 520 hours. If we decide not to go forward with self-funded health insurance, then the hours for the Human Resources Division would not be needed. We would, however still move forward with the additional hours for the Facilities & Parks Division.

If we move forward with the transition to self-funded health insurance and with the increased hours for both Divisions, then the current Human Resources LTE position would be eliminated. The position would be changed to a full-time position shared between the Human Resources Division and the Facilities & Parks Division. As we have talked about many times, it is very difficult to hire and retain LTE positions. The County currently has a similar arrangement with a shared position between the County Clerk and Veterans Services and that concept seems to be working well.

Scenario 1 – Proposed funding if we transition to self-funded health insurance and both Divisions receive the increased hours

One (1) shared full-time employee total annual cost (based on 2088 hours per year):	\$70,967
Human Resources Division cost (75%)	\$53,225
Funded by Self-Funded Health Insurance	(\$15,000)
Funded by reallocation of Workers Comp Transfer	(\$15,496)
Funded by eliminating current HR Assistant LTE	(\$20,351)
Funded by a reduction in advertising	(\$2,378)
Facilities & Parks Division cost (25%)	\$17,742
Funded by increased parks revenues	(\$17,742)

Scenario 2 – Proposed funding if we do not move forward with self-funded health insurance

One (1) shared part-time employee total annual cost (based on 1500 hours per year):	\$32,994
Human Resources Division cost (65%)	\$21,446
Funded already by current HR Assistant LTE position	(\$20,351)
Funded by a reduction in advertising	(\$1,095)
Facilities & Parks Division cost (35%)	\$11,548
Funded by increased parks revenues	(\$11,548)

I am recommending to keep the Workers Comp Transfer reallocation funding the same for both scenarios. After talking with the Human Resources Director, it was determined the position responsible for our Workers Compensation/Safety Program is spending more time than has been previously allocated. Moving forward that position will track their exact time and we will adjust in future budgets. If we do not move forward with self-funded health insurance, then the reallocation of Workers Comp funding will free up some levy in future budgets.

SUMMARY

I understand that this is very complicated and that is why I am providing this letter. I tried to come up with a resolution explaining all of this, but as you can guess, it was even more confusing. I have directed both Divisions to include the funding for the first scenario above in their 2022 budgets when they review them with their Policy Committees. The Divisions can explain in more detail at that time and the Committees can ask them questions if needed.

In summary, there will be two resolutions at the August 3rd Executive Committee and the August 10th County Board meeting. The first resolution will be to approve the 2022 budgeted amount for the health insurance program. The second resolution will be to support moving to self-funded health insurance for 2022. The overall budgeted amount does not change whether we go self-funded or not.

If the decision is made to transition to self-funded health insurance, then it is my intent to bring forward a separate resolution to the Executive Committee and County Board in September to approve either a part-time or full-time shared position between the Human Resources Division and the Facilities & Parks Division effective January 1, 2022.

To help explain the benefits of transitioning to self-funded health insurance, the Human Resources Director will have a presentation attached to the resolution recommending Chippewa County moving to self-funded health insurance.

Sincerely,



Randy Scholz
County Administrator



Department of Administration

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

July 16, 2021

TO: Executive Committee

FR: Randy Scholz

RE: Presentation on Self-Funded Health Insurance

When the agenda packet was originally posted it included a presentation on self-funded health insurance. Since that time I updated my memo and removed the presentation. I plan to bring that presentation to you at the August 3rd Executive Committee meeting along with a resolution to transition to self-funded health insurance. I wanted to clarify this in case any of you saw the presentation when it was originally posted and are confused now that it is no longer in the agenda packet.

Attachment: CA Ltr to Exec RE Presentation on Self Funded Health Ins 07-16-2021 (6490 : Update on 2022 Health Ins & Possible Transition to