

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

April 29, 2019

Committee Members Present: Curt Crandall (Chairman), A. Bigelow, T. Boyde, P. Curran, M. Evans, D. Fanton, K. Hooker, D. Pullen, R. Zink (Absent: K. Dirlam, D. Root)

Others Present: C. Knapp, N. Pullen, B. Riehle, P. Stockin, M. Washer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Crandall

Introduction

Chairman Crandall welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, stating this is only the second time since he has been Chairman of the Board that he has put together a group and appointed himself as Chairman of it.

Chairman Crandall went around the room and had everyone introduce themselves.

Overview of Broadband Project

Chairman Crandall stated back around 2006 to 2008, the Board started looking at a wireless project in Ontario County that provided fiber ring throughout. They met with Ontario County representatives to discuss details; however, at the time it was seemingly out of reach for Allegany County. Later, came the Connect NY Wireless Broadband Program in New York State that the County joined, and had it not been for the prior work done, the County would not have been able to achieve what we have in bringing forth the County-wide Broadband Program.

Chairman Crandall briefly highlighted Resolutions dated back to 2009 that were adopted by the Board to help the County-wide Broadband Program progress.

Chairman Crandall went on to discuss the issues that the County has faced launching this program such as Connect NY and Governor Cuomo's proposal to have fiber in every home throughout New York State.

Chairman Crandall would like the main focus of this task force to be looking at what the future of wireless broadband in Allegany County is, and how we concentrate on areas that are truly in need of this service as well as focusing on what the best way is to utilize the equipment that was obtained through the \$800,000 grant.

Southern Tier West Executive Director Richard Zink stated it is both relevant and true that Armstrong and Spectrum have been charged by the State to put fiber optic into every home throughout New York State. Those companies bid on specific census blocks and are then required to provide fiber optic to every address within that census block. Anyone who cannot be provided fiber optic was granted to HughesNet which equals 18 percent of the County. Mr. Zink continued that if a home is capable of receiving fiber, they aren't going to use wireless, or companies such as Win-Win Wireless. Mr. Zink went on to say that there is a need out there for this Broadband Program to be completed across the County, adding that if they think broadband is useful now for things such as banking, social media, and education, then they should multiple that need by ten for the future. Mr. Zink stated that through Southern Tier West, the State has done a lot of different projects. They have helped put up the tower on Corbin Hill that they then turned over to the County, they put up a tower in Swain to help the ski resort, and also put up some towers in Rushford. Mr. Zink continued that currently, Armstrong has the best price with the best service, and the County needs to keep them in check by having competition that will keep them at a level where they need to compete both in price and capacity.

Chairman Crandall stated that there are Board members who have questioned if the County has invested in something that isn't needed and has been taken over by other entities making it futile to put in any additional effort. Chairman Crandall doesn't believe that's the case, adding they need to be able to convey that message to gain support from the Legislature going forward.

Geographical Footprint

Mr. Zink briefly discussed the schedule as well as steps Armstrong is taking stating that they are currently scheduled to be done by the end of 2019, and while there is some question as to whether or not they will be able to accomplish it, we have to take them at their word. Mr. Zink continued that they have worked closely with Southern Tier Wireless who will be covering the edge of Grove down to Cuba, adding that the vast majority South of I-86 and the upper corner of Birdsall, Almond, and Burns will be left uncovered and granted to HughesNet. Win-Win Wireless representative Nancy Pullen asked why HughesNet was awarded census blocks. Mr. Zink stated that there are some homes that just can't get fiber optic, and in order for the State to "check the box" that says they are serving everyone in New York State, they granted those areas to HughesNet.

Legislator Curran who also serves as Chairman of the Allegany County Tele-Communications Development Corporation (ACTDC) gave a brief overview of what the group does. They are primarily an in-between group between the County and the last mile providers. Their job boils down to the purchase and re-selling of signal to the last mile providers. Win-Win Wireless and TelStar do all of the last mile work for their customers who belong to them, noting that ACTDC has nothing to do with that portion of the process. Legislator Curran went on to say that to date, they have borrowed \$250,000 above and beyond the original \$200,000 the County invested to help get them up and running. Ideally, they were set up to provide internet signal and with the money they do make, put it back into the 911 system. If they can get up to 1,000 customers, they should be turning back decent money to the County.

Win-Win Wireless representative David Pullen stated as of right now they have approximately 50 customers and it has been very slow getting started. Seventy-five percent of their customers are in the area Mr. Zink described as being served by Southern Tier Wireless. Mr. Pullen noted that while they aren't marketing against Southern Tier Wireless, some are switching over to Win-Win Wireless due to not receiving the speed they desire and being very unhappy with their current service. Chairman Crandall asked if the County's Broadband system has the capability to offer above what is brought in by Southern Tier Wireless. Mr. Pullen stated he can't speak to that as he is not privy to all that Southern Tier Wireless can do. What Win-Win Wireless can provide is up to .5GHz bandwidth through the 911 backbone, adding that if someone wanted 100Mbps, they could provide that as well. Mr. Pullen went on to say the dilemma they are experiencing is that wireless requires line of sight, and if they can't see the property, they can't serve it. Mr. Pullen continued that the 911 towers were located primarily for use by 911 with broadband use being incidental. Where they have a complaint is with the original plan design that he was aware of which was to piggyback, and ACTDC was going to build 10 microcell towers. ACTDC then hired full-time Executive Director Ryan Cool. When the money ended up being unavailable, only two microcell towers were constructed; one of which is located in Wellsville and is not operational; therefore, they cannot provide service to that area. Chairman Crandall asked why the tower is not operational. Legislator Curran stated it is privately owned and the owner was promised service from the tower; however, there is no way to get service to the owner, so they will not allow us use of the tower. Chairman Crandall asked if the equipment on the tower can be utilized somewhere else. Mr. Pullen indicated, yes, it could be placed at another location. Legislator Fanton asked how much service the tower can provide to Wellsville if it can't even

reach the owner's property. Mr. Pullen stated that based on where the homeowner is living, they are blocked. Legislator Fanton stated that we have put equipment on a tower that we can't use, and asked if there is any other way to get service to the owner. Mr. Pullen indicated that they have offered service at no charge if they allow the tower to be turned on. If it means they have to put up a relay just to serve them, it would be worth it for the amount of service they can provide in Wellsville. Legislator Fanton stated they need to focus on that tower and getting it turned on and asked if there is anything the Legislature can do to assist in that process. Mr. Pullen stated they did approach them at one point in time, but have since gotten distracted because they started looking at the tower located behind the Village of Wellsville Police Department. They have since found out that even though it is located in the Village, it is owned and run by Verizon, so they are unable to use it. Mr. Pullen continued they can approach the homeowner in Wellsville again; however, they would also need direction from ACTDC as he cannot speak for them. Chairman Crandall indicated that with a little negotiating, it seems like the Wellsville tower can cover a lot of ground, and that should be looked into before they move the equipment to another location.

Mr. Pullen provided another example of a customer who was quoted \$123,000 by Spectrum to run service to their home. The County is unable to serve from either of the three towers in their general area due to the amount of hills obstructing the view, so they are anxiously awaiting news that Armstrong will be able to provide service to them. Mr. Pullen continued that Southern Tier Wireless is located in the town of Rushford and they have been told by the Recreation Lake District that the service around the lake is abysmal. ACTDC has just put up a tower with a license from the Lake District, and they are hoping they can provide service options of 6Mbps, 12Mbps, or 25Mbps. Mr. Pullen noted that if someone wants a higher speed, they can provide it; however, they aren't receiving calls for service above 25Mbps as most want the \$40 per month level.

Chairman Crandall started a brief discussion on how to solve the issues they are experiencing with no line of sight. Mr. Zink stated one option is to place the equipment higher on the towers. If they were to place the equipment at 100 feet on the Corbin Hill tower, they can see a radius of two to three miles; however, if they place it at 280 feet, that radius increases to 8 to 10 miles. Mr. Pullen indicated that the highest they are going is 30 to 70 feet which covers a couple of valley's. Chairman Crandall asked if there is a different type of unit they could place higher on the towers. Mr. Zink stated it comes down to capacity. A bigger antenna on a bigger tower can handle a greater capacity while a smaller antenna on a 40-foot tower will serve approximately 40 houses. Mr. Zink continued that they could put larger antennas on smaller towers, but they will start to get into infrastructure issues, and they would need to be engineered. Radio Technician Matt Evans stated that the new towers are approximately 250 feet and are engineered; however, going up higher on the towers will cost money. The County was originally on a 400-foot tower in Angelica, and as soon as they found out Broadband was going to be on there, the price went up to \$500 per month. Mr. Evans indicated that if they decide to get off the County towers and move onto commercial towers, they're going to be paying big money. Mr. Pullen added that there are two commercial towers in the Fillmore area and Win-Win Wireless will never have enough customers to cover the amount of money they want monthly.

The task force briefly discussed that Superintendent of Fillmore Central School Ravo Root had once stated that between 40 and 50 percent of their students do not have adequate broadband service. The students have laptops and tablets with broadband available while in school; however, when they go home, they don't have service which leaves them at a disadvantage to communicate with teachers and do their school work. Mr. Root looked into funding that would allow all of his students to have service at home, but struggled with the percentage of students that could actually be served. Mr. Zink stated because all of the students couldn't be served, they decided it wasn't beneficial to spend school dollars when only 20 percent

would have service. Chairman Crandall asked if any other school districts have looked into anything similar. Mr. Zink stated not to his knowledge.

Funding Opportunities

Chairman Crandall asked if there are any known funding opportunities that could help move this project forward. Mr. Zink stated the Appalachian Regional Commission Power Grant is for coal affected communities. Allegany County has been deemed coal affected, so they have put in an application to be awarded \$800,000 for Broadband. There is a caveat they have to guarantee that the only places they will serve are allocated to HughesNet. Mr. Zink briefly discussed 4k TV's and how they require at least 15Mbps download speed, noting that if the County wants people to continue buying homes, they need to have these services available. Mr. Zink continued that he receives calls regarding people who want to work from home or do online schooling, and while it may seem frivolous to some because they can live without it, it is a big part of decisions being made when buying homes.

Department of Public Works District Shop

Mr. Pullen stated they were approached by the County's Department of Public Works to serve shops around the County. They are able to serve the Birdsall shop; however, Public Works decided to go a different route as they could get more bandwidth from another provider. Mr. Pullen noted that he doesn't believe they need anything more than 25Mbps, and he is unsure of what they are doing that requires more. Legislator Fanton stated it is his understanding that it is not something they just chose to do, and it still has not been confirmed that the Birdsall shop can see the tower to get service. Mr. Pullen indicated that he did reach back out to the Superintendent to confirm they can serve that shop. Win-Win Wireless cannot serve Main Street or the Fairgrounds, but they can get service to Peacock Hill Road, the site where the village offices are located as well as to the Town Hall. Mr. Pullen continued that if they were able to put up a tower at the Birdsall site, they can then relay from it and cover the entire Village of Angelica. Mr. Pullen went on to say that the best site to put up a tower is at the Angelica site where the village offices are located; however, because they are too new and too small, they were unable to obtain a particular type of insurance coverage that the insurance agent is requiring be held. Mr. Pullen noted they have since found a company that will provide \$1 million in coverage for \$5,000. County Administrator Timothy Boyde stated they need to take a look at what they can do with the Department of Public Works.

Future Meetings

The task force briefly discussed when future meetings could be held, and the following were scheduled:

- Wednesday, May 29, at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Chambers
- Wednesday, June 26, at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Chambers

Adjournment

Chairman Crandall adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

June 26, 2019

Committee Members Present: Curt Crandall (Chairman), P. Curran, M. Evans, D. Fanton, D. Pullen, D. Root, R. Zink (Absent: T. Boyde, K. Dirlam)

Others Present: A. Mann (Win-Win Wireless), D. McDonnell, B. Riehle, T. Ross, M. Washer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman Crandall

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Curran, seconded by Mr. Pullen, and carried to approve the April 29, 2019, Broadband Task Force minutes.

Introduction

Chairman Crandall welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting, stating this is only the second time since he has been Chairman of the Board that he has put together a group and appointed himself as Chairman of it.

Chairman Crandall went around the room and had everyone introduce themselves.

Wellsville Tower

Win-Win Wireless representative David Pullen stated that after the last Broadband Task Force meeting, he contacted the owner of the tower on Meservey Hill who was under the impression that the County is who walked away from the deal. Mr. Pullen stated there has been confusion regarding the situation, and Legislator Curran and he have confirmed that electricity to the tower is still on; however, it had been turned off for approximately one year. Mr. Pullen went on to say that given where the tower is located, it can serve over to the easterly side of the village and some of those areas. The tower is in the shadow of the westerly side of the Genesee River, but given what they have done in other places, it is possible to create another microcell and have it feed off the Meservey Hill Tower which will then allow service over to the westerly side of the Genesee River. The original agreement was to provide internet service to the owner's residence in exchange for putting radios on their tower; however, the owner was later told that the County could not do that. Mr. Pullen indicated that at this point, Win-Win Wireless has offered to pay for the owner's service in consideration of being able to use the tower and begin marketing and serving the easterly sector of Wellsville. Southern Tier West Executive Director Richard Zink asked how long the antennas have been on the tower. Mr. Pullen stated two years; they were active for one year and inactive for one year. Legislator Curran reminded Mr. Pullen that Win-Win Wireless has access to those radios, adding that if they have rights as the last mile provider and pay for it then they are the only last mile provider allowed on the tower; however, if ACTDC pays, then other providers are allowed on the tower as well.

Technology Issues

Mr. Pullen discussed the technology issues that have recently been brought forward. The most common reception band is 3.65 GHz; however, it is going through some major restructuring by the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC). It is Mr. Pullen's understanding that in June 2020, all current radios that include 3.65 GHz radios will become unusable. New radios with new technology will be required, so going forward, they need to have a decision made as to what radios need to be on the towers. Mr. Pullen noted that if they start marketing and signing up customers on those radios, they will become "boat anchors" a year from now. Chairman Crandall stated first and foremost, the Wellsville tower is up and running, electric is being paid, and they can access certain areas from that tower with the possibility of expanding their customer base in

the future with microcell towers. Mr. Pullen stated that is correct; however, there are technical issues that need to be solved first before they are comfortable investing a lot of money. Chairman Crandall asked if the bigger issue now is that Win-Win Wireless won't invest until the technical issue is solved. Mr. Pullen stated the Wellsville tower is the only 3.65 GHz radio; all of the other towers have multiple radio technologies on them such as 5 GHz and 900 GHz. Legislator Curran stated the product belongs to the County; therefore, it is a County decision, not ACTDC. This issue just came up, and they haven't even had a chance to discuss it, and it will boil down to whether they invest in the system or not, adding that it's the same situation as the maintenance agreement. If they don't invest in those kinds of things, it will fall apart. Mr. Pullen stated that Win-Win Wireless has added a new technology called TV White Space which is unused broadcasting frequencies in the wireless spectrum. Television networks leave gaps between channels for buffering purposes, and this space in the wireless spectrum is similar to what is used for 4G; therefore, it can be used to deliver widespread broadband internet. This new technology allowed Win-Win Wireless technician Alex Mann to put a radio on a tower in Rushford Lake. Prior to that, they could only reach cottages over the waterfront, but not in the back of the woods. As of today, that additional radio serves the wooded area, and the customer is receiving good service. Mr. Zink asked what they considered good service. Mr. Mann stated up to 20 Mbps download speed, and 15 Mbps upload speed. Mr. Pullen stated they are excited about this new technology and plan to market it soon as they have many customers who want service, but some live in the woods, and Win-Win Wireless has been hesitant to offer service without being sure they could deliver. Legislator Fanton asked if they can take signals from towers and convert it to TV White Space and serve areas from there. Mr. Pullen stated, yes, adding that if they put TV White Space on the tower, it enables them to directly serve areas. Legislator Root stated that what she is hearing is that come next June, the County's radios are obsolete, and Mr. Pullen stated, yes, the 3.65 GHz radios will be obsolete. Legislator Root asked if Mr. Pullen is recommending they upgrade to TV White Space. Mr. Pullen stated that is a policy decision above their level. The task force briefly discussed the towers with multiple bands and what they can and cannot serve.

County Administrator Debbie McDonnell asked who ACTDC is and if the County has a map that shows where our towers are located and what areas they serve. Legislator Curran stated that ACTDC is the Allegany County Telecommunications Corporation that was created by the Board of Legislators to act as a go-between group for the County and the last mile providers, and they essentially purchase and re-sell signal to the last mile providers. Mr. Pullen stated that 911 would have the maps that Ms. McDonnell is referring to and noted that the broadband radios piggyback off the 911 towers. Ms. McDonnell stated that she wants to understand the demographics, who and what they are serving, as well as what is missing so they know what needs to be invested. Ms. McDonnell continued that it's important to look at TV White Space and whether or not it will provide better coverage. Ms. McDonnell suggested that mapping it out will give the full Board a better idea, so when they decide to invest money, they understand the capacity of service. Chairman Crandall stated that if you were to look at the information that is available, it looks like the County is pretty well covered when we're not, and he doesn't feel that it's necessary to concentrate on the entire County when they know there are specific areas that need broadband service but will never have it. Chairman Crandall stated they need to have a handle on the cost, options, etc. in order to properly convey what the full Board needs to do.

Mr. Pullen discussed Armstrong who came along after the County started their broadband initiative stating that Armstrong is a New York State initiative who have received millions of dollars to deliver broadband service to everyone in the state. Mr. Pullen has tried to talk to Armstrong but cannot get a straight answer from them on who they can serve. Mr. Pullen recently spoke with a Houghton resident who currently receives service from Spectrum; however, has seen Armstrong putting up new poles on the corner of his property lot to offer service. Mr. Pullen continued that the area already has cable, internet, and phone, yet Armstrong is putting up new poles that meet

their specs, adding that this initiative was supposed to be unserved or underserved residents. Mr. Pullen never sees Armstrong working in those areas such as Granger, Allen, etc., and he finds it upsetting to see them working in areas who already receive high-speed services. Legislator Curran stated they need to focus on the County's situation and not the ones they have no control over. Mr. Pullen indicated that situation is a part of the County's problem, adding that if Armstrong does what they say they will, then the Board will say the County doesn't need to have their own broadband. Mr. Zink stated that he wholeheartedly disagrees with Mr. Pullen, adding that they have seen the maps from Armstrong, and they are not covering 100 percent of the County, and Mr. Pullen cannot say that is the case as it's bad omen to the County. Mr. Zink continued that satellite is not the answer, and this wireless solution is what the County needs to do, and they need to figure out how to do it.

Outside Funding

Legislator Fanton asked what grant money is available to them. Mr. Zink indicated that Appalachian Regional Commission Power Grant has agreed that satellite service is not adequate. There is a clause in the power grants that the County cannot compete with Spectrum; however, they can compete with HughesNet, and because the County has been designated as a distressed County, the funding would be a 70/30 split rather than 50/50. Legislator Fanton asked if there are any current applications available. Mr. Zink stated currently, no, because the next cycle hasn't been announced yet; however, it should be around October. Legislator Root indicated that in order to make that next application cycle, they need to have these issues worked about by October, noting they have their work cut out for them. Chairman Crandall asked if it would be better if Allegany County applied for the grant separately or if Southern Tier West applied on our behalf. Mr. Zink stated that last year when Southern Tier West applied, the application indicated that it would serve parts of all three counties, and they are happy to apply on the County's behalf. Chairman Crandall asked if it benefits the County more or less to apply or ourselves or have Southern Tier West apply on our behalf. Mr. Zink indicated it wouldn't matter either way as long as the County has the same letters of support. Mr. Pullen asked where Southern Tier West's potential grant funds are going to serve. Mr. Zink stated mainly the north and northwest portion of the County which equals approximately 3,000 to 4,000 people and 120 businesses. Mr. Pullen asked if there is anything preventing us for applying south of I-86. Mr. Zink stated absolutely not, and they could even include north of I-86 as long as it's a cohesive application. Chairman Crandall asked how much can be applied for. Mr. Zink stated there is no minimum, and the cap is \$2.5 million. The task force briefly discussed the additional processes involved with applying for the grant. Chairman Crandall asked with all of the options they have to look into, how specific does the application need to be. Mr. Zink stated we will need to be very specific and briefly went through the steps taken to come up with a logical explanation for the amount of money being requested.

Next Steps

Chairman Crandall stated that part of moving forward and being prepared will be getting the full Board up to speed and comfortable with the next steps. If that piece isn't maintained, it will diminish, and the County will be missing a very important piece of what's needed in the future. Legislator Fanton asked what a major TV White Space unit on a tower would cost. Mr. Mann indicated they could use the existing structures on each tower to cover 360 degrees, and the cost would be \$12,000 per tower for the 13 towers. Legislator Fanton stated they are looking at \$150,000 to upgrade the County's 911 towers to TV White Space. Legislator Curran indicated they don't need to do that because we already have working radios on the towers even with the 3.65 GHz radios going away. Legislator Root stated that she feels this issue would fall under the Planning & Economic Development Department as it's been a highlighted topic to work on and is also included in the Comprehensive Plan. Legislator Root suggested assigning it to that

department so they can start pulling together options to choose from, adding that they cannot go in front of 15 legislators without a plan. Ms. McDonnell stated that without an action strategy nothing gets done, and it sounds like there are resources they need among the task force in order to move forward. Ms. McDonnell is hesitant to send this issue to the Planning Department as she doesn't know that they have the capacity and knowledge to add value other than with GIS. Ms. McDonnell suggested a couple of members getting together to look at an action strategy, and how they plan to present it to the Board, noting that she wants this to be simple and understandable. Chairman Crandall agreed stating without the Board having a handle on the importance of this on a basic level, then they aren't going to get the support they need. Legislator Root suggested that they need to make the community aware that progress is being made. The Board has gone silent on this issue, and they only hear about Armstrong so they need to put something positive out there regarding the County's continued efforts. Chairman Crandall reiterated that something needs to be done outside of the task force as they cannot keep having meetings and just talking about the issues at hand. Mr. Zink briefly discussed doing a propagation study and suggested letting some of the task force members handle this now and leaving the Planning Department out of it as anything he may need or question, he can contact Planning Director Kier Dirlam directly. Mr. Zink asked if there is going to be an issue if the County has a tower show up on the propagation study that is covering a portion of a county outside Allegany. Chairman Crandall stated he didn't think that was going to be an issue because the County would be able to get service to more people which will further enhance our overall system and help it grow financially. Ms. McDonnell asked that as Mr. Zink works through this process, he maintain communications with her.

Service Calls

Clerk of the Board Brenda Rigby Riehle stated that people are starting to call and ask for providers and asked for confirmation if Win-Win Wireless is currently the only last mile provider offering service. Legislator Curran indicated that they seem to be the only active provider at this time. Mr. Pullen stated that TelStar has approximately 20 to 30 customers. Mrs. Riehle asked for suggestions on the best way to handle a citizen's call. Legislator Curran stated if they are looking for service then give them Win-Win Wireless. Radio Technician Matt Evans suggested giving the individual all providers and let them make the decision. Mr. Pullen stated that Southern Tier Wireless is also a provider and suggested to send all calls to Win-Win Wireless, and if they cannot offer service, they will recommend them to another provider. Mrs. Riehle expressed concern about showing favoritism, and asked that we receive a list of every available provider or suggested just referring them to ACTDC. County Treasurer Terri Ross stated that the County needs to be careful on recommending a particular provider because if the constituent does not have a good experience, it could come back on us. Mr. Zink asked if Mrs. Riehle has received any additional calls that a constituent was not able to find service, and Mrs. Riehle stated, no, she has not. Mr. Zink suggested that if that were to happen, direct the individual to former Senator Young's office because we need to continue to make a compelling case to the state that what they did was just a partial solution.

DPW Facility

Mr. Pullen addressed the Public Works facilities stating there is a site in Angelica that they could put a microcell tower up and then provide services to Angelica residents they currently cannot reach. Chairman Crandall asked what the cost to the County will be, and Legislator Curran indicated the cost of a telephone pole. Mr. Pullen added that it will also need to be made available to any last mile provider. Mr. Zink expressed concern regarding wood utility poles that can bend with the heat and cold and losing signal. Mr. Mann stated they could put up another tower for those reasons as well as grounding; however, he doesn't think the amount of bending will cause

that big of an issue. Legislator Curran indicated they cannot use a utility pole without going through a strenuous application. Legislator Fanton expressed concern at putting a privately owned business on County-owned property. Legislator Curran stated that County Attorney Carissa Knapp will more than likely suggest that ACTDC should be the owner and not the last mile provider. Legislator Fanton stated if ACTDC buys the pole and puts it up then he's okay with it; however, he has issues with putting a privately owned business on County-owned property. Mr. Evans stated that the area they are discussing is already an area serviced by Armstrong and asked why they are concentrating there after just discussing that they should be focusing on unserved areas. Legislator Fanton stated the County has no requirement to stay away from Armstrong.

Future Meetings

The next task force meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Chambers.

Adjournment

Chairman Crandall adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

July 24, 2019

Committee Members Present: Curt Crandall (Chairman), A. Bigelow, P. Curran, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, K. Hooker, D. Pullen, R. Zink (Absent: T. Boyde, M. Evans, D. Root)

Others Present: C. Knapp, A. Mann (Win-Win Wireless), D. McDonnell, N. Pullen (Win-Win Wireless), B. Riehle, T. Ross, M. Washer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman Crandall

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the June 26, 2019, Broadband Task Force minutes.

Review of Coverage Map

Southern Tier West Executive Director Richard Zink stated there is a printed map available for anyone to view that shows current CONNX towers operating at the three different spectrums. They know that the northern part of the County is pretty well covered; however, the southern and far eastern parts still have numerous pockets unserved, and residents can only receive satellite service. Planning Director Kier Dirlam stated the map comes from the propagation study done in September 2017 when they officially completed the grant application to turn in for reimbursement. IT Director Keith Hooker asked if they are finding the propagation map is accurate to what the County can deliver. Win-Win Wireless representative Dave Pullen stated it's accurate to the impact of the foliage, trees, evergreens, noting that some of those areas are being addressed with microcell towers. Mr. Pullen continued that Win-Win Wireless has started using TV White Space on a Rushford Lake tower, and it has been very effective getting through the trees; however, it's very expensive, and they hope the price will come down. Mr. Pullen went on to say that there may be some grant money available, and if we could qualify for that to deploy the TV White Space technology, it could get them closer to servicing those areas they currently are not able to.

Mr. Dirlam indicated that he sometimes hears that the County is helping do things on the towers that is for private entities, and stated that has always been the plan. All of the equipment is County owned and has been since day one, and it is up to the County to maintain it. ACTDC was created with the intent that the legislature wouldn't have to deal with issues on a daily basis noting that it was done on purpose and is a County function. Mr. Dirlam went on to say that the microcell locations were laid out, and the Board passed a resolution approving agreements with ten fire departments, all of which signed off on the microcell locations. Unfortunately, when this project started, they found that not only is it way more expensive than anyone thought to put up an 80-foot tower, more money had been spent to fill out the 13 main towers. Six towers were in the original plan; however, the number increased to 13 when 911 received \$5.1 million to put up towers. Mr. Dirlam noted that better planning could have happened along the way, but the maintenance of this is now most important. Mr. Dirlam asked if the County is committed to maintaining the equipment because they accepted the grant money because typically there is an expectation that the equipment has a lifespan, and the County would keep it functional during that time. Chairman Crandall stated that he is unaware of those specifics, and reminded everyone that mid-stream into this project, the state came out and said there's been a change in plans. Chairman Crandall asked with the coverage that we currently have as well as what is needed to fill in the gaps, is it achievable with some additional microcell towers. Mr. Dirlam stated if there is an opportunity for the County to get a grant to upgrade to TV White Space, noting they need to be careful where they pick as some areas are already well covered, then it would be worthwhile for ACTDC to go after. Mr. Dirlam reminded the task force that if the County or ACTDC applies for it, then it will be a County asset. Legislator Fanton stated that the County didn't want this to be a

long-term project; however, they thought there would be more money and then the state came in and changed everything. Mr. Dirlam stated it's obvious the state isn't going to help us, so we need to look at who will, adding that more than likely it's going to have to be federal money.

Service Contract

Chairman Crandall stated that this group needs to know where the service contract lies and receive some direction so it can be cleaned up and taken care of, noting that it's not an ACTDC contract; it's a County contract. The task force further discussed the details as well as the needs of a maintenance agreement.

Makeup of Allegany County Telecommunications Development Corporation

Membership

Chairman Crandall stated that currently the ACTDC Board of Directors is comprised of four individuals: Philip Curran, Jonathan Denehy, Dwight Fanton, and Brent Reynolds. Chairman Crandall noted John Margeson also serves; however, his term is to set expire in the near future. Michael Johnson who previously served has indicated that his letter of resignation was submitted, and he should not be listed as an active member. Mr. Dirlam stated while the current members are fine board members, they are missing individuals with a technical background and suggested they find some new members that have no conflict of interest and can add some technical expertise. The task force briefly discussed various entities and businesses they could reach out to for new members.

By-Laws

Mr. Dirlam indicated that it is up to ACTDC to review and make any necessary changes to the By-Laws. Chairman Crandall stated if there are things that we could do to help enhance them, it is important to address them now.

Grant Funding

Chairman Crandall referred to previous discussions on federal grant funding and asked for an update on any conversations that have been had since the last meeting. Mr. Pullen stated he was intrigued by what Mr. Zink shared last month, noting again that the expense of TV White Space is daunting. The base station costs \$4,000, and the County would need a total of four to cover 360 degrees. That cost totaling \$16,000 is not doable for Mr. Pullen's small organization; however, grant funding can make it viable. Mr. Pullen discussed a conversation he recently had with a resident at Rushford Lake who happens to have a background with putting up large towers and is thinking about installing a 400-foot tower in his area. Mr. Pullen indicated this individual has done this on his own with no grant funding, adding it's been a business activity he makes money at. Mr. Pullen continued that if there is grant funding available, and it needs to be based upon the unserved and underserved, those funds, along with a modest contribution from the County or ACTDC, could provide the additional coverage to help them get back to where they originally were 5 years ago with TV White Space, better coverage, and getting prices down to a more attractive rate. Mr. Zink stated the grant money Mr. Pullen is referring to is not only a lot of money to build one 400-foot tower, but that Rushford Lake resident cannot be a co-owner of that tower when grant money is involved. Mr. Zink continued that if the County has 13 towers, then TV White Space technology will be enough to cover, so wanting to put up a brand new tower doesn't make sense. Legislator Fanton asked if we can send out TV White Space signal through the current signal we have. Mr. Dirlam stated you need the same technology on both ends. Legislator

Curran stated they could leave the current radios and broadcast to a TV White Space receiver that would then broadcast out. IT Director Keith Hooker stated they do not need a complete overhaul of the system and can leave the backbone as it is and build off that. Legislator Fanton asked what the cost will be to receive the signal and send it back out. Mr. Pullen stated a base station radio is \$4,000. The County would need four to cover 360 degrees; therefore, they are looking at \$16,000. Mr. Pullen noted there will be an additional cost of approximately \$500 to put a receiving end on a customer. Chairman Crandall stated of the 13 towers the County currently has, some already provide great coverage, so it's not a situation of "all or nothing." Win-Win Wireless representative Nancy Jo Pullen indicated that if even if they put TV White Space on the towers, they will still need to put up the additional microcell towers. Mr. Dirlam indicated that is due to all of the valleys. Legislator Fanton stated that eventually they are going to have to change the equipment on the towers and asked if the grant money that is available allows them to make that change now. Mr. Zink stated, yes, they could put a grant application together and make that case, adding that they can look at the need for broadband in so many different ways and provide several examples of broadband benefits. Mr. Zink noted that there are enough partnerships out there that if the County makes their case, we could have other ways to move things along faster without just relying on grant money.

Next Meeting

The next Broadband meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Chambers. Chairman Crandall indicated he would like to have a report back on both the service contract and coverage map.

Adjournment

Chairman Crandall adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

August 28, 2019

Committee Members Present: Curt Crandall (Chairman), A. Bigelow, P. Curran, K. Dirlam, M. Evans, D. Fanton, K. Hooker, D. Pullen, R. Zink (Absent: T. Boyde, D. Root)

Others Present: B. Harris, C. Knapp, A. Mann (Win-Win Wireless), D. Martelle, D. McDonnell, N. Pullen (Win-Win Wireless), B. Riehle, M. Washer

Media Present: C. Dutton, *Cuba Patriot*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Crandall

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the July 24, 2019, Broadband Task Force minutes.

Maintenance/Service Contract Update

Radio Technician Matt Evans stated the contract update they received is no different than the original support agreement. Mr. Evans indicated the cost is higher because there is more time we have to buy back for the time the microwave radios weren't covered under warranty. Mr. Evans briefly discussed some of the terms of the contract. IT Director Keith Hooker noted that this is just a maintenance agreement. If the County were to get struck by lightning, then the insurance kicks in. County Administrator McDonnell stated that CONXX has indicated that the County has been up and running for three years and no upgrades have been performed, noting that this is something that needs to be brought current. Chairman Crandall stated some of these upgrades would have needed to be done at some point in time, and the cost would have been incurred at that time as well, and he doesn't think it is a lot of extra cost to execute this now versus over a period of time. Ms. McDonnell stated that Mr. Evans was very diligent in calling and getting information and has spent a great deal of time explaining everything to her. Chairman Crandall asked how they proceed with approving this and whether or not it needs to come before the Board. The task force briefly discussed with County Attorney Carissa Knapp a timeline and the appropriate committees this request should be brought to. Attorney Knapp noted that she has not seen the new contract and wants to review it first before any committee members are asked to approve it, and she suggested it be referred to Ways and Means with a resolution going before the Board in October. Mr. Evans noted that his most important concern first is 911 as it is people's lives; so at a minimum, the microwave updates need to be done to keep the system going. Chairman Crandall agreed that priorities lie with 911 and public safety, adding that they need to make sure the Board is aware and understands that these upgrades are not just for the Broadband System. They are needed for the 911 System which happens to go hand-in-hand with Broadband. Chairman Crandall asked if there are other 911 grant funds available they can utilize to offset the cost of this. Mr. Evans stated not at this time as the grants are specific as to what they can spend the money on.

Allegheny County Telecommunications Development Corporation Contract Update

Legislator Curran indicated there has been very little discussed since their last meeting. Mr. Curran stated that they are hopeful the allotment of \$50,000 that ACTDC received from the County this past summer to help the last mile providers put up microcells as well as run their day-to-day functions will be the last. Legislator Curran continued they are in need of three active members to join their board. The charter states they can have between five and nine members, and as of right now they are at 5 because one member hasn't shown up in 18 months. Chairman Crandall asked if they are looking at any upcoming contract changes. Attorney Knapp stated she has not received anything to review; therefore, has no comment. County Administrator McDonnell

asked when the ACTDC contract expires. Legislator Curran stated it is five-year contract, and they are currently in year three. Attorney Knapp noted that the agreement ends at the end of 2021 and will automatically renew for five years.

Chairman Crandall asked if there are any more customers coming on board. Legislator Curran stated slowly but steadily, adding that Win-Win Wireless has been the only active last mile provider. TelStar started out strong and got up to 20 customers, but has since experienced some family matters and hasn't been back in the County. David Pullen from Win-Win Wireless stated they have gone from 20 customers to 70 this year. It is slower than they had hoped; however, part of that was due to some of the microcells. Mr. Pullen continued that they have five separate microcells that have been put up, and three more that they hope to have on in the next month. Mr. Pullen went on to say that if there are sites they can identify and have ACTDC build the microcell, it would save Win-Win Wireless from having to layout the capital for that. Mr. Pullen discussed again TV White Space that they made available over the summer on Rushford Lake.

Grant Funding Update

Mr. Pullen stated that the biggest issue is what happens with the Armstrong project. Mr. Pullen indicated that he has had numerous people ask him what Win-Win Wireless is going to do because Armstrong is going to cover the entire County. Mr. Pullen continued that if you look at Armstrong's grant, there are a lot of census parcels they did not apply for, as he believes they found them too challenging. Those leftover parcels have now been designated by the state to HughesNet; however, HughesNet service is not broadband. Mr. Pullen went on to say that he has been in contact with Tom Johnsen in Minnesota who described a program to Mr. Pullen called "ReConnect" which is a rural development program, and there are some funds available on a national basis. Mr. Pullen discussed the different levels of funding; however, after looking further into the programs rural development map, it appears no site in New York State qualifies. Mr. Pullen indicated that if they were to apply for the program, they have to be able to serve every resident and business in the proposed territory. Mr. Zink indicated that he is unsure if the USDA has the same definition of broadband, and if they don't, there isn't going to be any area that would qualify.

County Administrator McDonnell stated that they had a really good conversation with Senator Gillibrand's staff where they explained the challenges we've had in the County over the last three to five years getting broadband up and running. Ms. McDonnell indicated that Senator Gillibrand's office sent out an announcement that there would be additional funds coming for broadband. Mr. Zink stated that he believes there are no new funds. What Ms. McDonnell is referring to is just a re-release of the 2017 agreement, and they are finally cutting the check.

Ms. McDonnell thanked Mr. Zink for meeting with her and helping her to understand all that is involved with broadband. Ms. McDonnell continued that CONXX is going to a conference in October to talk with vendors who produce TV White Space equipment, and they have recommended that the County wait a little bit to see what the market is going to do. The task force briefly discussed TV White Space and the different avenues they can take to get there. Mr. Zink suggested it should be ACTDC driving this if they are the ones who are going to bring broadband into the County. Chairman Crandall stated when this was put together they were looking at County-wide coverage, but the game changer was Armstrong coming in and taking out larger segments of potential customers, so they now have to look for the need within those holes that Armstrong isn't covering. The committee also discussed working hand-in-hand with the last mile providers to move this project forward. Ms. McDonnell noted that it would behoove them to have an action plan in place so if funding does become available they are ready.

Incident Protocol

Ms. McDonnell stated that she met with Planning Director Kier Dirlam and Radio Technician Matt Evans to discuss what happens when they get a call that the system is down, and when a call goes to 911, ACTDC, etc. Ms. McDonnell continued that they are trying to work on protocols so when the system goes down, the right people are contacted. Ms. McDonnell indicated that when CONXX is up and running, the response time between them and the County will be quicker, and they will then establish when to call ACTDC and/or 911. Mr. Zink asked who answers the phone on behalf of ACTDC. Legislator Curran stated there are two individuals available; however, chances are the last mile providers are going to know there is a problem first because they will be receiving calls from their customers. Mr. Dirlam noted that there has to be someone who is actually going to answer the phone on behalf of ACTDC.

Next Meeting

The next Broadband meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 30, at 10:00 a.m. in the Legislative Chambers.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. on a motion made by Mr. Dirlam, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

BROADBAND TASK FORCE

October 30, 2019

Committee Members Present: Curt Crandall (Chairman), A. Bigelow, P. Curran, K. Dirlam, D. Fanton, D. Pullen, D. Root, R. Zink (Absent: K. Hooker, M. Evans, and T. Boyde)

Others Present: J. Adams, D. Decker, C. Knapp, A. Mann (Win-Win Wireless), N. Pullen (Win-Win Wireless), B. Riehle, T. Ross,

Media Present: No media representatives were present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairman Crandall

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Legislator Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried to approve the August 28, 2019, Broadband Task Force minutes.

Maintenance/Service Contract Update

Acting County Administrator Carissa Knapp updated members saying there are two parts to the CONXX maintenance agreement. There is the maintenance and service agreement and the second part is the warranty agreement. She indicated at the Ways & Means Committee meeting on October 28, 2019, that she requested a resolution approving a three-year extended warranty agreement with CONXX Smart Technologies which includes Prime Extended Warranty and Support as well as a RFU Software update fee and support to bring all of the radios up to the current version. The agreement covers a three-year period. Ms. Knapp anticipates putting forth a resolution and having a contract in place for the maintenance and service parts by the end of the year. Ms. Knapp indicated Radio Technician Matt Evans has been mainly involved from the Sheriff's Office, and he is working with Lt. Bigelow to bring him up to speed on the project.

Allegany County Telecommunications Development Corporation (ACTDC)

Legislator Curran indicated that since their last meeting, ACTDC has been quite busy. D. Pullen stated that A. Mann installed a microcell on the roof of the insurance office building in Belfast. This microcell is up and running. Also, the microcell in Angelica is operating and is located behind the village garage.

D. Pullen said he has been in contact with the IT staff at Houghton College to establish a presence in Houghton. Houghton College has an internal system on the campus. A. Mann continues to work with the IT Director. Houghton College is willing to work with us. Also, WXXI Station out of Rochester has a tower on County Road 49 and recently indicated that they would be receptive to having ACTDC or Win-Win Wireless equipment on their tower. Legislator Curran stated that originally they had thought that this particular tower wasn't maintained and operational but now know that is not the case. Would ACTDC or Win-Win Wireless consider this a viable option? He stated, hopefully; they will be able to proceed.

Legislator Decker asked if towers have cross signal interference problems. A. Mann stated that there isn't any interference with this. However, sometimes point-to-point broadcast frequencies can experience signal interference problems. Legislator Curran said in Houghton there are currently two signals and they have looked at adding a third that won't interfere with the existing system. Mr. Pullen said there are multiple bandwidths and frequencies that you can get viable equipment for.

Chairman Crandall indicated the County invested in the broadband system to help with the infrastructure, and then discovered that poles needed to be replaced, and the system needed

to be reengineered. Presently, the County is in the process of determining how to best fill the gaps where needs aren't being met. Previous grants didn't adequately address the magnitude of the project. Chairman Crandall agreed that priorities continue to lie with 911 and public safety, adding that they need to make sure the Board is aware and understands that these upgrades are not just for the Broadband System.

D. Pullen said they are fulfilling some of these unmet needs. They currently have 75 residents on the network, and an equal or greater number of residents that have inquired about the service, but they haven't been able to reach at this point. However, some residents that were previously unreachable are now able to be served with the additions of the microcells. Mr. Pullen anticipates having close to 80-85 customers before snowfall. He announced they are poised by spring time to take a leap with rapid customer base growth from further microcell progress.

D. Pullen explained he recently attended a meeting with Armstrong's Vice President Shawn McCabe and everyone acknowledged that fiber optic is the gold standard for wireless service. Armstrong Communications has high speed cable and provides quality services. There are still areas in the County with no service coverage. He further stated that satellite broadcast is not broadband and wondered how HughesNet received millions of dollars in funding for expansion?

Grant Funding Update

R. Zink stated the funded service area is more so in Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties than in Chautauqua County.

Chairman Crandall stated there is a need to focus on areas without coverage. Opportunities exist in Bolivar, Richburg, and in Little Genesee. He feels we need to focus there and in similar areas without coverage. He stated that we won't be able to force private investors to invest in areas that won't be profitable.

R. Zink remarked that ARC is currently the best available funding source for broadband expansion projects. The Federal Budget if approved in November has \$15 Million set aside for broadband development. He stated we received \$400K in grant funding last time. The match requirement is 30 percent, and the last notice of funding availability was released in January with an April deadline for submissions. R. Zink said the funding mainly focuses on broadband access for businesses and service areas where Armstrong Communications isn't currently providing services. He said that anything that involves moving dirt is considered construction in terms of the grant development by the funding source. Armstrong Communications found themselves in a difficult position as they needed to replace 6,000 poles and the cost estimates for the project they put forth didn't accurately account for this expense. R. Zink said the engineering, administrative costs, and insurance costs all need to be accurately calculated for a solid plan. The service needs to primarily target businesses, tourism destinations, and agriculture, with residents being secondary service recipients.

P. Curran said that 3.65 Licensure is going away, and TV White Space currently offers a better return on investment. D. Fanton noted that there are capacity restrictions for TV White Space. He said to serve an area such as Rushford is okay, but a larger area might not work. R. Zink said TV White Space capacity is 15 to 20 Megs maximum, and you can't get 100 Megs through TV White Space. There are 4K televisions that require 8 to 10 Megs to operate limiting the number of people that can use the TV White Space simultaneously. This necessitates understanding your customer base and their needs to adequately address capacity. A. Mann stated TV White Space is more challenging than they had foreseen. He noted when the 3.65

License expires they will have radio equipment that will not work because the band width required for the signal will increase by three times.

Chairman Crandall asked what needs to be done to prepare for the ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission) grant. He mentioned the project timeline needs to account for inclement weather conditions and an inability to build during the months of November through April. During this time, home installments can take place. It will require a well thought out plan. It was mentioned that it would be helpful if the grant could address updating towers for customer premise equipment (\$20-30k). R. Zink noted that the match commitments for the grant will need to be known by January or February. Members discussed Southern Tier West putting the application together and targeting the underserved areas. R. Zink confirmed there is a mixed spattering of service areas underserved by HughesNet. He noted that we have primarily focused on the Northern part of the County and should now focus our efforts on the South Eastern part of the County. He stated that Southern Tier West would help guide the plan and put the application together but isn't interested in dealing with political or turf issues. N.J. Pullen stated there is a shortage of industry knowledge on the part of ACTDC or Win-Win Wireless to complete a comprehensive plan within the time that would be required. Legislator Curran asked how much ownership should ACTDC take? Should their role be the lead, ownership, or should they take a more supportive role? Legislator Fanton stated the goal is a favorable outcome and this needs to be a team effort. He noted that Southern Tier West has the past grant knowledge and can pull together a consortium to develop the plan. R. Zink stated the County's involvement is necessary as it currently has the equipment for the project. Southern Tier Wireless holds the 3.65 License. In the future, this could involve equipment upgrades and avoiding total replacement. Chairman Crandall asked if there are other entities that should be engaged in the planning process. N.J. Pullen recommended that we engage CONXX in the planning process.

D. Pullen stated he wanted to ensure businesses and residents in Allegany County would not suffer from the digital divide. This is the main reason for his involvement. Chairman Crandall noted that the County shares that goal. In addition, when the project started they were focused on students not having access to teacher support and internet for homework assignments. The current system includes Win-Win Wireless, HughesNet, Spectrum, ACTDC, and Armstrong Communications all working together to develop a system. D. Pullen said Win-Win Wireless is actively pursuing microcells and expanding its customer base. This includes conducting the research needed to determine how to get services to Alma and Stannards and continuing to learn throughout the process.

Legislator Root asked who needs to be on the team to move the project forward with Southern Tier West? R. Zink responded that the planning process will be key and identified Win-Win Wireless, Southern Tier Wireless, ACTDC, County Legislators, and County funding contribution toward the match and private investors. Legislator Decker remarked that N.J. Pullen made a good point of involving CONXX in the plan given their experience and expertise.

K. Dirlam remarked that the initial project faced multiple barriers including implementation delays, regulation changes, technology changes, and ultimately the trees and terrain proved to be the biggest barrier to service integration. He stated that we did the best we could with what we had to work with. Chairman Crandall stated when the initial plan was put together, they were looking at County-wide coverage, but the game changer was Armstrong Communications coming in and taking out larger segments of potential customers, so they had to look for the need within those holes that Armstrong isn't covering. Chairman Crandall recommended that the project planning team which will include a County Legislator will provide regular updates and give a report at future Planning and Development Committee Meetings.

K. Dirlam said he has maps that were developed in 2016 and in 2017 depicting clusters of unserved areas. He said this data could be refined to show farms, businesses, and tourism clusters. Legislator Fanton commended K. Dirlam and D. Pullen for their dedication and the work that they have both invested in the Broadband Project.

R. Zink stated that Southern Tier Wireless and Hughes Net can provide information and real property tax addresses can be useful to define tax designations.

Preliminary ideas for membership for the grant development team included Richard Zink from Southern Tier West, Wayne Hawley from Southern Tier Wireless, Dave and Nancy Jo Pullen and Alex Mann from Win-Win Wireless, CONXX, and a legislative representative.

D. Pullen remarked that CONXX has availed themselves to his questions and has provided ongoing guidance. They have demonstrated that they're committed for the long haul.

Chairman Crandall said that he would like to ensure the legislators receive continual updates. He sees a natural fit for this communication at monthly Planning & Economic Development Committee Meetings. He would like a quarterly report on the broadband project or at a minimum at least three times per year. He mentioned that currently there is a legislator serving on the Southern Tier West Board and on the Allegany County Development Telecommunications Development Corporation Board.

Incident Protocol Discussion

D. Pullen asked what the protocol is for access to the tower and equipment? Is there a way to approve a technician for access to reset the equipment if a power outage occurs? He noted that CONXX and Motorola have done work on the towers in the past. Lt. Bigelow said that he isn't sure what the protocol is but stated that Radio Technician M. Evans would know. K. Dirlam noted that we need to determine what the process and protocol is for access to the fenced in area and towers. Also, when there is an incident, what is the chain of command of who gets called? D. Pullen noted that during a recent event (lightning strike), M. Evans wasn't able to be reached and Sheriff Whitney went to the tower station and reset the system. He wondered if it is possible to keep a key for tower access at the Public Safety Facility for sign out by an authorized person only to handle events like this should they occur in the future. Legislator Curran noted the significance of having an operational system for customers with medical needs that rely on the system for communication.

Good of the Order

R. Zink commented that any match required for the grant application would be spent in 2021. The funding match request will likely be \$80-150K. He anticipates presenting the plan and a request for match funding to the Allegany County Board of Legislators in January or February 2020.

Next Meeting

Chairman Crandall remarked that the intent of a Task Force is short-term. In place of future task force meetings, regular updates and quarterly reports will be provided on the Broadband Project at future Planning & Economic Development Committee Meetings.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m. on a motion made by D. Fanton, seconded by Legislator Curran, and carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jodi Adams
Assistant to the County Administrator