



Internet Action Committee

Minutes

Location: Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th Street N.

Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:00pm

Attendance: Marshall Smith; John Carney; and Bob Wilmers.

Absent: KC Douglas and Cathy Mackiewicz

Also in attendance: Council Liason Patti Ray; Council Liason Steve Kronmiller; City Administrator Ken Cammilleri.

Call to order – Wilmers called the meeting to order at 6:09pm.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Wilmers, seconded by Smith, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Review and consideration of approval of meeting minutes for January 23, 2020 – The meeting minutes for January 23, 2020 was tabled for next meeting.

Justin Forde from Midco joined the meeting by phone. He reported on the status of the 2020 DEED grant and on future federal grant opportunities through the FCC's Rural Opportunity Fund. Grant awards through the Rural Opportunity Fund are anticipated to be awarded through a reverse auction process, which will improve Midco's opportunity to obtain funding. Forde reported that there was a reasonable probability to obtain project funding from these sources in the future, although he noted some research may be necessary. Forde also provided his comments on subordinate service districts for clarification to the committee.

Forde suggested that the City should provide Midco with another letter of support for another grant and include its commitment to provide a local contribution. Motion by Carney, seconded by Smith, to make a request to the City Council to agree to providing this letter on behalf of the Mayor. Motion carried.

The committee also identified a local grant program might be a tool in the future to consider in order to help close financing gaps for expansion. No action was taken on this matter.

The Committee also made a request to Midco to supply the City with rough estimated costs for the completion of a final buildout of broadband networks in the City. Forde indicated that he would look into providing the information. Forde reiterated Midco's commitment to the community.

Update from Frontier regarding network opportunities—Carney and Smith reported on information that was provided to them from their recent contact with Frontier. Cammilleri will provide Wilmer with the contact information for the local Frontier engineer.

Exploring opportunities to coordinate opportunities with adjoining communities – The Committee noted that there is a possible opportunity to partner with Marine on St. Croix with regard to their new cell tower. Two members volunteered to reach out to the group behind the project to explore collaborative opportunities.

Updates on voluntary associations of neighbors – The Committee noted that there may be an opportunity for 8 household on Mallard Avenue North to obtain service. A neighborhood meeting is being arranged to discuss the possibility.

Update on Community Center Wireless Network Improvements – Kronmiller provided the committee with an update on the network mapping project and its progress.

The Committee set their next tentative next meeting on Thursday April 2nd at 6:00pm.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm upon the successful motion of Smith, Seconded by Carney.