

**JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

March 3, 2022

Joint Meeting

Broadband Working Group

Amy Rinard, Chair; Richard Jones, Vice Chair; Jeff Johns, Secretary; Curtis Backlund, Joan Fitzgerald

Finance Committee

Richard Jones, Chair; George Jaeckel, Vice Chair; Russell Kutz, Secretary; Conor Nelan, Amy Rinard

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Nass at 10:12 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Broadband Working Group Members present: Curtis Backlund, Joan Fitzgerald, Matthew Foelker, Jeff Johns, Amy Rinard

Broadband Working Group Members present via ZOOM: Richard Jones,

Finance Committee Members present: George Jaeckel, Conor Nelan, Amy Rinard

Finance Committee Members present via ZOOM: Richard Jones, Russel Kutz

Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator, Marc DeVries, Finance Director; J. Blair Ward, Corporation Counsel, Cindy Diestelmann, Tammy Worzalla, Patricia Cicero.

Others Present via ZOOM: Mitchell Olson, Bug Tussel Wireless LLC/Hilbert Communications; Supervisor Laura Payne, Supervisor Walt Christensen, Leslie Ott, Joan Callan, Meg Turville-Heitz, Audrey McGraw, Mark Dodge, Bertram Communications.

3. Certification of compliance with Open Meeting Law Requirements

Wehmeier certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

4. Communications

None

5. Public Comment

None

6. Communications

None

7. Discussion and possible action on public/private partnerships for broadband expansion and joint application for 2022 Public Service Commission grants and other state and federal programs

Wehmeier and Olson talked through the project overview. The following resolution will be drafted: Creating public-private partnership for broadband expansion in Jefferson County. Wehmeier said that there may be additional opportunities for collaboration with Charter Spectrum, Edge and AT&T. The committee authorized staff to continue exploring these opportunities

Broadband Working Group: Motion by Jones/Rinard to support the Resolution – Creating public-private partnership for broadband expansion in Jefferson County and authorize staff to look at other possible public/private partnerships and forward the resolution to the County Board for consideration. Motion passed 6-0.

8. **Discussion and possible action on financing program for broadband expansion**
Wehmeier, Olson and DeVries talked about the financing model. The following resolution will be drafted - Authorizing creation of a public-private partnership with Hilbert Communications, LLC to explore financing options for broadband expansion throughout Jefferson County.

Finance Committee: Motion by Rinard/Nelan to support the Resolution - Authorizing creation of a public-private partnership with Hilbert Communications, LLC to explore financing options for broadband expansion throughout Jefferson County and forward to the County Board for consideration. Motion passed 5-0.

9. **Discussion and possible on tentative future meeting schedule and agenda items**
No action taken.

10. **Adjourn**
Motion by Jaeckel/Backlund to adjourn at 11:09 a.m. Motion passed

DRAFT