



WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

April 30, 2024 - 9:00 AM

East Annex Public Meeting Room

300 North State Street – East Annex · Waseca, Minnesota 56093

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on Thursday, May 30, 2024, in the Commissioners' Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota. Members present were Chair Brian Harguth, DeAnne Malterer, Doug Christopherson, Brad Milbrath and Brad Krause.

Other members present were Michael Johnson, County Administrator; Beth Weimert, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were Steve Kraus; Lucas Dittmer, Waseca County News

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Harguth called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Letter of Commitment for Round 10 Border to Border

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, discussed the letter of commitment of Round 10 Border to Border, Resolution 2024-16. Johnson indicated this is the same as round 9 and in the event that the county is awarded dollars, the county is committing up to a \$165,000.00 match to build up a minimum of 165 homes.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-16 Commitment of Funding for Round 10 Border to Border Program by Commissioner Malterer, seconded by Commissioner Milbrath. Discussions were held. Motion carried 5-0.

a. Resolution 2024-16

Resolution 2024-16:

Commitment of Funding for Round 10 Border-to-Border Program

WHEREAS, the Waseca County Board of Commissioners previously authorized a broadband feasibility study on April 21, 2020, to pursue solutions for unserved and underserved residents in light of the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Waseca County Board of Commissioners previously authorized Resolution 2021-39 setting aside \$1,000,000 of funds to be used as investment in broadband infrastructure and development; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Office of Broadband Development has provided a state resource that help make the financial case for new and existing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to invest in building broadband infrastructure into unserved and underserved areas of the State known as the Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Program pursuant to Minn. Stat. 116J.395; and

WHEREAS, Waseca County staff and their consultants contacted many ISPs to gauge their interest in pursuing expanded services in Waseca County through joint application of the Border to Border Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Bevcomm responded to those inquiries with a construction plan and proposal that will provide in-ground fiber technology to a minimum of 165 homes, farms and businesses in Waseca County; and

WHEREAS, Bevcomm has had a regional presence in the telecom industry of over 100 years and has had more than 20 successful applications for grant dollars awarded; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners authorizes \$165,000.00 of dedicated county broadband funds to be spent installing fiber optic cable to provide additional broadband connectivity solutions to Waseca County residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waseca County Board of Commissioner has final discretionary authority on approval of all disbursements made and that all disbursement towards this project are contingent upon successful application and award of Border-to-Border grant dollars, and to be paid to Bevcomm upon completion of the project.

3. Governance Agreement for Waseca County Collaborative for Families

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, discussed the governance agreement for Waseca County Collaborative for Families. It was noted that Appendix A was not attached.

Motion by Commissioner Milbrath to approve the Governance Agreement for Waseca County Collaborative for Families in the form that it is written, so long as Appendix A does not offset what is currently in place financially, seconded by Commissioner Christopherson. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioners are in support of the agreement in the form that it is written. If there are other financial implications, as means of the integrated fund language, there will need to be a separate action that comes back to the board to authorize those.

a. Governance Agreement

4. Adjourn

Having no further county board business, Commissioner Christopherson moved and Commissioner Milbrath seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Brian Harguth, Chairperson
Waseca County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Beth Weimert, Clerk
Waseca County Administration