

Town of Plum Lake

P.O. Box 280 715 – 542 - 4531
8755 Lake St. Sayner, Wisconsin 54560
E-Mail: office@townofplumlake.com
Website: www.townofplumlake.com

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

1. Call to Order at 5:06 pm.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes.
 - a. A motion was made by Kim to approve the June 30, 2022, minutes. The motion was second by Michael. Passed unanimously.
3. Letters of Support Mailing Status>Returns
 - a. Just under 200 letters have been received.
 - b. The deadline on the letter stated July 15, 2022, but it was decided to continue collecting letters until the grant is due.
 - c. Discussion about possible booth on town property during the Sayner Street Fair in attempt to get more letters of support.
4. Fundraising and Budget
 - a. Possible costs were discussed at a recent Town Board meeting.
5. Website
 - a. No discussion held.
6. Possible Broadband Partners
 - a. Michael will send an email to Celeste Flynn at Charter requesting a phone meeting with him and Madeline
 - b. Talking Points
 1. Out of a population of 500, over 200 letter of support were received.
 2. Advised Town Board of possible costs, and they seemed open to the idea.
 3. Due to RDOF, it is advantageous to both to partner.
 4. The area not covered by RDOF is geographically condensed.
7. Available Grant Funds
 - a. A discussion was held about possible grants options including Kwik Trip, AARP (due to telemedicine), Howard Young Foundation, Nicolet College, VCEDC, Vacasa, etc.
 - b. Madeline is working on a Walmart grant application
8. Broaden Broadband Committee Members
 - a. A discussion was held about the benefits of having work groups to assist with some of the tasks.
 - b. Madeline will send an email to anyone who expressed interest on the survey.
9. Citizen Comments and Correspondence
10. Adjourn
 - a. Next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 5:00 pm;
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

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Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

1. Call to Order at 5:05 pm.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes.
 - a. A motion was made by Michael to approve the July 19, 2022, minutes. The motion was second by Madeline. Passed unanimously.
3. Letters of Support Mailing Status>Returns
 - a. Currently received over 230 letters of support.
 - b. Discussion of committee members at the Sayner Street Fair and the Spaghetti Dinner. Members will attend as possible.
 - c. Will need to select approximately 50 letters that will be sent with the grant application.
4. Fundraising and Budget
 - a. Possibility of getting ARPA funds.
5. Possible Broadband Partners
 - a. Charter has been contacted as they are laying fiber in Plum Lake as part of RDOF.
6. Available Grant Funds
 - a. Information is needed from the Town Clerk before the Walmart grant can be completed.
 - b. Marshfield Clinic grant was submitted, with a focus on wellness.
 - c. The Kwik Trip grant was not submitted by the deadline.
7. Broaden Broadband Committee Members
 - a. Mary Lou, Scott, and Dan will assist in the review of the letters of support. Kim will bring the letters to the Town Hall on Friday, August 5, 2022.
8. Citizen Comments and Correspondence
9. Adjourn
 - a. Next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 5:00 pm.
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

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Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

1. Call to Order at 5:05 pm.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes.
 - a. A motion was made by Kevin to approve the August 17, 2022, minutes. The motion was second by Kim. Passed unanimously.
3. Review Best Letters of Support
 - a. No action taken.
4. Fundraising and Budget
 - a. The Plum Lake Lions have pledged \$1,000.
 - b. Kim will develop a letter to request a grant from the Walter Alexander Foundation and the Cornell Brewer Foundation.
5. Possible Broadband Partners
 - a. There will be a Town budget workshop, followed by a Town Board Meeting on October 11, 2022. Kevin will ask for \$4,000 as a broadband marketing/operating budget in 2023
6. Citizens Comments and Correspondence
 - a. None.
7. Adjourn at 5:45 pm

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Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

1. Call to Order at 5:05 pm.
2. Previous Meeting Minutes.
 - a. A motion was made by Kevin to approve the September 27, 2022, minutes. The motion was second by Kim. Passed unanimously.
3. Fundraising and Budget
 - a. No action taken.
4. Possible Broadband Partners
 - a. Bill Niemuth, Vilas County Economic Development (VCEDC), stated that VCEDC began working with Charter in August, 2022. VCEDC expected approximately 40 million in available grants, but currently only 14.1 million is available. No cost or contributions from Charter have been received yet. Charter acquired Lakeland Communication, and can therefore use their easements. It is believed that there are approximately 256 households in Plum Lake that are not covered through RDOF (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund), of those, approximately 100 of those are in the Lakeland Communication easement area. The Lakeland Communication area is Hwy 155 to the Southside of Sayner and then West on County N. The largest gap in uncovered homes is in the Northwest side along Hwy 70 West and the East Central island. Niemuth stated that he believes Charter is extremely busy due to their RDOF responsibilities, and there are supply issues with fiber optic supplies. LTD was a contractor that received many of the RDOF bids, but they were not approved by the FCC, so Charter will likely attempt to fill those gaps. Charter may not find the value in completing the grant for the remaining 156 homes not covered in Plum Lake. Other possible partners include Bright Speed, Frontier, which is just out of bankruptcy and just won a few large jobs in Marathon and Lincoln counties, and ChoiceTel, who did not express interest when previously approached. Niemuth stated that Plum Lake is in the best position of other towns in Vilas County due to the RDOF coverage. Charter should make a decision as to whether they are interested in partnering with Plum Lake by January 15, 2023. Once Charter advises of a cost, a Special Town Board Meeting would need to be scheduled and a Class II notice would need to be posted 15-20 days prior to the meeting. Niemuth will check with Frontier and Bright Speed in the event that Charter is not interested.
5. Available Grants
 - a. The current grant cycle deadline is February 27, 2023. Can re-apply for another grant, if available, if denied for this round of grants.
6. Citizens Comments and Correspondence

a. None.

7. Adjourn at 5:52 pm