



Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force
 Established by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
 Working to Achieve Countywide Broadband Equity by 2022



VIRTUAL Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 19, 2021
 8:00 – 9:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order | Introductions / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fuller at 8:00 am

Present:

Ann Arbor Township
 Augusta Township
 Bridgewater Township
 Dexter Township
 Freedom Township
 Lima Township
 Lyndon Township
 Manchester Township
 Northfield Township
 Saline Township
 Sharon Township
 Sylvan Township
 Webster Township

Diane O’Connell
 Belynda Domas
 Cal Messing
 Karen Nolte
 Valisa Bristle
 Elaine Bater
 Gary Munce
 Lisa Moutinho
 LJ Walter
 Gary Pirkola
 Barb Fuller
 Amanda Nimke-Ballard
 John Kingsley

Commissioner Shannon Beeman

Kyle Mazurek
 Melanie Bell
 Ben Fineman
 Barb Fuller

Comcast
 Plymouth District Library
 Vice Chair
 Chair

Members of the Public
 Gregory Dill
 Chris Scharrer
 Justin Heinze
 Joe Jelly
 Ken Dignan

Washtenaw County Administrator

 Supervisor, Northfield Township

- II. Approval of the Agenda
 Motion to approve as presented, Kingsley, supported by Bell
 Unanimous approval of agenda as presented
- III. Approval of July 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve July 15, 2021 BBTF Minutes as presented, Munce, supported by Nimke-Ballard.

Unanimous approval of minutes as presented.

IV. Update

Washtenaw Board of County Commissioners County Commissioner
American Rescue Plan allocation Shannon Beeman
to fund broadband gap-filling initiative

Commissioner Beeman shared that the consideration for countywide broadband funding via ARPA was pulled from the August 4 Board of Commissioner meeting agenda due to equity concerns. County Administration was working to review, update and change the document to accommodate those concerns. She has not yet seen the final version so can't speak to any changes. It will be \$14.6 million.

The edited item will go to the Ways & Means committee on September 1.

Gary Munce stated that the Broadband Task Force is all about equity of access, as it is a utility. Commissioner Beeman agrees and is working to help her fellow commissioners to understand this.

County Administrator Dill assured the group that the edited document would satisfy concerns from commissioners and he is hopeful they will find value in it.

Chair Fuller asked the Administrator for assurances that the documents, testimonials, resolutions, etc, previously submitted for board consideration and as a matter of the public record would be included in the September 1 materials. The Administrator could not offer those assurances. He did go on to add that the updated equity component will hit the mark for a super majority of the board, and thanked Commissioners Beeman and Maciejewski for their work.

Valisa Bristle added that she has 186 letters from Freedom Township residents, in support of the ARPA allocation of funds for countywide broadband access.

Kyle Mazurek asked BBTF members to remember economic assistance is available for adoption challenges.

Barb asked Shannon how the Board of Commissioners survey was going. Shannon reported that it remains open through 8/31, and encouraged everyone to participate. Paper copies are available upon request, and that broadband accessibility is a 'top 10' issue. #1 is childcare and access to it.

Barb reminded everyone to spread the word about the survey, the 9/1 meeting and encouraged everyone to speak at the meeting.

Greg feels confident about it passing

V. Action Items None

- VI. New Business
None
- VII. Old Business
None
- VIII. Township Updates
Sharon Townships telescoping antenna is done. Will help with Back to School wifi project.
- IX. Public Comment
Ken Dignan, Northfield Township Supervisor updated the group on his township's intention to bring broadband to all residents via private buildout within the next 365 days. This will be funded 100% via federal grants and Northfield Fiber, LLC will be over-building the area, offering residents multiple choices.
- X. Announcements
None
- XI. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn, Bristle, supported by Walter.
The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am

NEXT MEETING: Sept 16, 2021 @ 8:00-9:00AM – Zoom format