

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Rich Bostwick  
INITIATED BY



Josh Smith  
DRAFTED BY

County Board Staff Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

June 11, 2021  
DATE DRAFTED

**Creating an Ad Hoc Broadband Committee**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, on February 25, 2021, the Rock County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 21-2B-200
- 2 *In Support of Legislation to Allow for Greater Broadband Expansion*; and
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, that resolution noted that 53% of the County’s square miles, affecting approximately
- 5 20,301 individuals or 12% of the County’s total population, are partially underserved, unserved or not
- 6 serviced (per 2020 broadband application to state to serve Rock County, supplied by Bug Tussel
- 7 Wireless); and
- 8
- 9 **WHEREAS**, according to the Wisconsin Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission,
- 10 significant portions of Rock County are unserved by wireline internet access with at least 25 Mbps
- 11 download and at least 3 Mbps upload speed; and
- 12
- 13 **WHEREAS**, this data, collected by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), reports internet
- 14 availability by census tract and is known to overstate the availability of internet access; and
- 15
- 16 **WHEREAS**, many County residents experience difficulty accessing vital internet access for work- and
- 17 school-related functions; and
- 18
- 19 **WHEREAS**, robust broadband availability is an important element of economic growth and development
- 20 by attracting and retaining a workforce; and
- 21
- 22 **WHEREAS**, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has provided Rock County with \$31.7 million,
- 23 which is available to support investment in broadband infrastructure, and the State of Wisconsin has also
- 24 made additional ARPA and State funds available for broadband grants; and
- 25
- 26 **WHEREAS**, Rock County should evaluate whether to invest ARPA funding in and help to coordinate
- 27 the expansion of broadband throughout Rock County to assist its residents in accessing fast and reliable
- 28 internet service.
- 29
- 30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly
- 31 assembled this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, does hereby create an Ad Hoc Broadband Committee to evaluate
- 32 potential uses of American Rescue Plan Act funding for broadband expansion throughout Rock County;
- 33 coordinate with other local units of local government, the State, and private sector organizations; and
- 34 serve as the focus of public input into broadband needs.
- 35
- 36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee will be composed of ~~five~~ seven
- 37 County Board supervisors appointed by the Chair and confirmed by the County Board.
- 38
- 39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Committee will be sunset by December 31, 2026, which is the
- 40 final date for ARPA funded-projects to be completed, unless otherwise extended or ended sooner by the
- 41 County Board.
- 42

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Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

/s/Rich Bostwick  
Rich Bostwick, Chair

/s/Wes Davis  
Wes Davis, Vice Chair

absent  
Tom Brien

/s/Kevin Leavy  
Kevin Leavy

/s/Lou Peer  
Lou Peer

/s/J. Russell Podzilni  
J. Russell Podzilni

/s/Alan Sweeney  
Alan Sweeney

/s/Bob Yeomans  
Bob Yeomans

/s/Mary Beaver  
Mary Beaver

FISCAL NOTE:

Per County Board Rule IV-C, County Board Supervisors who are members of additional special, single purpose for ad hoc committees are eligible for per meeting allowances and mileage reimbursement.

/s/Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Broadband is an eligible expense under ARPA. Creating a committee would provide a focal point for County discussions about whether and how to invest ARPA funds in broadband expansion, as well as provide a mechanism through which other local jurisdictions interested in broadband expansion can coordinate their efforts.

/s/Josh Smith

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to sections 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats., as well as Rule IV-C of the County Board Rules.

s/Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel