LEELANAU COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION – FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020
Approved 2/16/2021

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and are not the official record of the meeting; the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

Meeting called to order by Chairman William J. Bunek at 9:03 a.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and the moment of silence were dispensed with by Chairman Bunek, as it was recited and held at the prior Public Hearing.

Roll Call:	District #1	Anthony Ansorge	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#2	Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#3	William J. Bunek	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#5	Patricia Soutas-Little	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#6	Carolyn Rentenbach	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT (via Zoom)

Public Comment:
None.

Chairman Bunek announced that the Government Center will be re-opening to the public on June 3, 2020. Protocols will be put in place to protect the public and the employees by meeting or exceeding the Governor's Emergency Management Orders.

Administrator Janik stated there will be new signs and traffic flow which allow only one-way traffic in the hallways and each office will have only one customer in the office at a time. There will be masks and gloves available to the public and the County will be in compliance with the Governor's order. Future board meetings in June will be open to the public and under the currently order there will be only 10 people allowed in the board room. Commissioners will be able to continue to be remote for meetings until the 30th day of the June.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action —
LIFT (Leelanau Internet Futures Team) Committee Update:
● David Edelstein. Edelstein said LIFT is comprised of over 20 people, and the lack of capable internet service is LIFT's main concern to the citizens of Leelanau County. Its vision is to improve the existing infrastructure and they are working with other groups to guide the future. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is currently placing fiber in the County and LIFT is hoping in the future to be able to connect with them to help out others nearby. Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown the group had been meeting with each township to let them know what the group is doing to connect the citizens of Leelanau County through better internet. LIFT hopes to connect via Zoom with those townships that we have not been able to meet up with yet.

● Tommy Hills, Leland Schools I.T. Director. Hills commented that based on early surveys of the homes in the district, there is five to ten percent of the school geography that does not have

access to the internet. Another 20% to 25% is considered having inadequate internet for the district to be able to get the students their education information through a virtual platform. Currently schools are trying to get the students more than Wifi by using cell service and hot spots. A major concern for schools is that there are no additional funds to be able to contribute towards what the student will need for remote learning.

ISP (Internet Service Provider) Comments/Options:

● Tim Maylone, Cherry Capital Connection. Maylone stated that his company has been in contact with the Grand Traverse Band and Peninsula Fiber regarding negotiations for a mutual interest and sharing capabilities across Leelanau County. Along with fiber, Cherry Capital Connection also uses towers to get to their customer base internet service.

● Ray Leppien, Agri-Valley Services. Leppien said Agri-Valley Services is a phone company, a cell phone company, and a fixed broadband service company, with the main focus on fixed broad band fiber to the home. The idea of coming to Leelanau County to provide service is a possibility, as long as there is a viable customer base to sustain the service. There is also a plan to look into access to the County towers for possible lease agreements and offer service to Leelanau County residents. Leppien indicated that at this point they have not been able to meet with GTB to look into access to their fiber.

● Jim Selby, Aspen Wireless Technologies. Selby commented that Aspen Wireless Technologies are consultants for broadband and have been in the industry for 20 years. He also noted that he is a Leelanau County resident. The goal is to be here to answer any questions and stated that fiber to the premise would be the best. Selby continued that they are normally not a service provider, but decided it would be good to help the community. As community leaders get to together to do this right with fiber, they would also like to get on the Maple City tower at a minimum.

● Kris Shafer, Elevate Net. Shafer said they are looking to expand within Leelanau County but with Covid 19 are at a standstill for now. Fiber is certainly an initial choice for as many residents as possible; however, the feasibility situation for some of the more rural options can be deal breaker for homes located in areas that are not highly populated.

Discussion ensued regarding what the County had done or can do or if there needs to be more done to get service to the citizens of Leelanau County between Commissioners and the Providers.

Discussion followed regarding lease agreements written between the County and the providers with questions and answers on current agreements and possible future agreements.

Grand Traverse Band Colocation Agreement:

Matt Ansorge, Leelanau County Director of Emergency Management/911. Director Ansorge stated that there has been no movement with the GTB or with Aspen Wireless regarding license and unlicensed spectrum. He continued that there needs to be more discussion and he would like the topic moved forward to June 2020.

Aspen Wireless Colocation Agreement:
Chairman Bunek requested to move the Aspen Wireless Colocation Agreement to the June, 2020, meetings.

Potential Approval of Federal Economic Development Administration Grant:
Commissioner Soutas-Little thanked all of the providers for being here today to share their knowledge and hard work in participating with LIFT. LIFT is not ready to continue with the grant application as of just yet, and will continue to help the County. A survey has been mailed out to general businesses located in the county that are home based to find out who has internet service and who needs internet service.

Commissioner Soutas-Little added the Grant proposal is associated with the CARES Act, and there is a possibility of matching funds depending on where the locations impact improvements to serve the community. There is also a possibility that the rate can be up to a 20% reimbursement/cost share, but it could be less.

Public Comment:
None.

Commissioner Comments:
● Commissioner Rentenbach said she feels this was a very progressive meeting today, and adding fiber service to everyone in the County is unrealistic but with the opportunity to expand with tower access may help with the availability to connect more residents with internet service.

● Chairman Bunek said he is hoping that County properties, like Myles Kimmerly or Veronica Valley Parks, could be a good possibility where a tower would help bring service, especially to the students of the County.

● Commissioner Ansorge said he is concerned that fiber locations within the County are not reported to the EMS department and are considered proprietary.

● Commissioner Wessell thanked Commissioner Soutas-Little on keeping on top of the grant through the work with LIFT and is hoping to get the grant completed timely.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

William J. Bunek, Chairman Leelanau County Board of Commissioners	Jennifer L. Zywicki, Chief Deputy Clerk for Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk