

**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

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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 8th 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.

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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.

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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