

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Broadband Committee  
INITIATED BY



2/10/2022  
DATE DRAFTED

**Authorizing ARPA Funding for Broadband Expansion Projects**

**WHEREAS**, the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee was established per Resolution #21-7A-285 to evaluate potential uses of American Rescue Plan Act funding for broadband expansion throughout Rock County, coordinate with other local units of local government, the State, and private sector organizations; and serve as the focus of public input into broadband needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee has been diligently pursuing the duties and roles outlined in the establishing resolution including a set of guiding principles and funding sources that maximize the expansion of broadband services throughout Rock County; and,

**WHEREAS**, ARPA guidelines require that broadband projects will meet a minimum of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload data speed; and connected households be eligible to participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or otherwise provide access to a broad-based affordability program for low-income consumers that provides benefits commensurate with those provided under the ACP; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Broadband Committee supports a grant application to the State Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion program and requests \$6 million in ARPA funds; and,

**WHEREAS**, this resolution identifies broadband expansion as the priority area for allocating the balance of ARPA, subject to County Board approval of subsequent, additional ARPA funded projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors assembled this 24th day of February, 2022, that this resolution provides a base, floor funding amount of \$6 million for broadband expansion ~~and that any unallocated ARPA funds and any unspent allocated ARPA funds will also be available for broadband expansion project funding.~~

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution provides funds for a Public Service Broadband Expansion grant application.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that additional resolutions will be required to provide budgetary authority and authorize specific broadband projects.

**FISCAL NOTE:**

This resolution addresses using ARPA funds for broadband projects. It does not address other types of funding sources that may also be needed for broadband projects.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

**LEGAL NOTE:**

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Broadband projects are an eligible expenditure under ARPA.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

Planning & Development Committee

The Planning & Development Committee recommended this approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Potter was absent.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommended this approval by a unanimous voice vote. Supervisor Fox was absent.

## Authorizing ARPA Funding for Broadband Expansion Projects

### Executive Summary

The Ad Hoc Broadband Committee has been meeting and received several proposals from large and small broadband-related companies.

At their meeting of Tuesday, February 15, 2022, the Broadband Committee approved the submission of a State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion grant application: that is based upon a proposal from Bug Tussle Wireless in the total project amount of \$13,000,000:

1. Fixed Wireless
  - a. Base \$2,500,000 with 100% funded from county bonding, to be repaid by Bug Tussel over a 30 – year term
  - b. Supplemental 6 towers \$2,500,000 with 100% funded from county bonding, to be repaid by Bug Tussel over a 30 – year term
2. Fiber ring (middle mile) \$8,000,000
  - a. PSC Grant application \$2,000,000 (25%)
  - b. ARPA \$6,000,000 (75%) to be repaid by Bug Tussel over a 30 – year term.

The resolution requests \$6 million in ARPA funds towards the broadband project.

Additionally, this resolution:

- A. identifies broadband expansion as the priority area for allocating the balance of ARPA, subject to County Board approval of subsequent, additional ARPA funded projects.
- B. provides for any unallocated ARPA funds, and any unused funds from other approved ARPA funded program be reverted to broadband project funding.
- C. acknowledges that additional resolutions will be needed to provide budgetary authority and authorize specific broadband projects.

## BUG TUSSEL WIRELESS BROADBAND PROJECT

CATEGORY	PROJECT \$	PSC GRANT	ARPA	CO. BONDING	COMMENTS
Fixed Wireless (utilizes existing AT & T antennas, and constructing & new towers)	\$2,500,000			\$2,500,000	Fixed wireless ineligible for ARPA \$
1 towers					
2. Fiber Ring (middle mile)	\$8,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,000,000		25% Grant/75% Local
3 Added Fixed Wireless (6 new towers) (@ \$416,700/new tower)	\$2,500,000			\$2,500,000	Fixed wireless ineligible for ARPA \$
Total	\$13,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000	

Note 1 Total project costs to be repaid by Bug Tussel over 30 years.

Note 2 Costs of financing to be paid by Bug Tussel, no cost to the County, if go thru Fond Du Lac County bond sale program.

Note 3 County to receive @ \$700,000 during life of bond repayments