



DAUPHIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP MEETING

MARCH 2, 2022

10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Pries, Chairman
Chad Saylor, Vice Chairman
George P. Hartwick, III, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

J. Scott Burford, Chief Clerk; Joseph A. Curcillo, III, Esq., Solicitor; Mary K. Bateman, Controller; George Connor, Director of Community & Economic Development; Stephen Libhart, Deputy Chief Clerk; Darla Mathis, Human Resources; Brett Hambright, Press Secretary; Fred Lighty, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Donna Miller, Risk Manager; Doug Brown, Community & Economic Development; Brendon Bretz, Budget & Finance; Frank Haulman, Information Technology; Security Guard; Rebecca McCullough, Esq., Solicitor's Office; Kelly Megonnel, Commissioners' Office and Richie-Ann Martz, Assistant Chief Clerk

GUESTS PRESENT

Kevin Dellicker, Kevin Sidella, Joseph Robinson, Jr., Earl Harris, Mike Gussler, Lorne Hess, II, Bill McGee and Wayne Mackey

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pries, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Everyone observed a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are several sets of Meeting Minutes that will be considered at next week's Legislative Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD BETWEEN MEETINGS

There were no Executive Sessions held between Meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING

A complete set of Public Hearing Minutes are on file in the Commissioners' Office.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS/GUESTS

- A. Doug Brown, Deputy Director, Dauphin County Office of Community & Economic Development
Kevin Dellicker, Dellicker Strategies
- 1. Update on Broadband Expansion

(A PowerPoint presentation is attached.)

Mr. Brown and Mr. Dellicker emphasized to the commissioners that being patient to see what funding opportunities come available is wise, so not to use county funds for projects with available state and federal funding.

Mr. Dellicker commended the commissioners for taking this approach, as some other counties have gone ahead with spending.

The Commissioners thanked George, Doug, and Kevin on their hard work with this project. They want to make sure all revenue streams are considered. This is a big concern in the upper end. That became apparent when the kids could not get hooked up to do their virtual classroom.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Robinson had a question on the Ordinance that was adopted. He wondered if the contractors were told to be at the meeting for comments.

Mr. Curcillo stated that an Advertisement was placed in the newspaper advising of the date of the public hearing and a brief explanation of the Ordinance. A copy of the Ordinance was on file at the receptionist desk in case anyone wanted to review it.

Mr. Robinson also discussed the disparity study and the County partnering with other municipalities. His team has been doing a lot of the groundwork with these municipalities.

SALARY BOARD

A complete set of Salary Board Meeting Minutes are on file in the Commissioners' Office.

HUMAN RESOURCES – DARLA MATHIS

Ms. Mathis reported that the Personnel Packet was emailed yesterday. She is asking for a vote on Items #9, #20, and #21.

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Saylor that the Board approve Items #9, #20, and #21 of the Personnel Packet.

Question: Mr. Pries – Aye; Mr. Saylor – Aye; and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

PURCHASE ORDERS – BRENDON BRETZ

Mr. Bretz reported that the Purchase Order Packet was distributed yesterday, and any corrections will be made prior to next week. No questions were asked.

The Purchase Order Packet will be considered at next week's Legislative Meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – JOSEPH A. CURCILLO, III, ESQ.

Mr. Curcillo had nothing to comment on. Everything will be ready for next week's Legislative Meeting. No questions were asked.

CHIEF CLERK'S REPORT – J. SCOTT BURFORD

Mr. Burford had no report, and no questions were asked.

TRAINING PACKET

It was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Saylor that the Board approve Items 1 and 2 of the Training Packet.

Question: Mr. Pries – Aye; Mr. Saylor – Aye; and Mr. Hartwick – Aye; motion carried.

MATTERS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Hartwick discussed the election process. CCAP noted that they will provide reports, so the counties are aware of what the requirements are.

Ms. Creason emailed Commissioner Pries regarding monies that have been collected. Last year it was \$7.4 million and this year it is \$11.5 million as of February 28th.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Hartwick and seconded by Mr. Saylor that the Board adjourn; motion carried.

Transcribed by: Richie-Ann Martz

Dauphin County Broadband Update

March 2nd, 2022



Current Situation

Telecom companies continue to deliver consistent and effective upgrades to the local broadband infrastructure.

Most consumers have access to multiple providers and multiple technologies.

Gaps in service and quality persist, especially in rural areas

Barriers in urban areas are mostly not related to availability.

Currently mapping need and potential projects

<https://arcg.is/0DWGni0>

Additional mapping:

NTIA Indicators of Broadband Need Map: [Indicators of Broadband Need \(arcgis.com\)](#)

FCC Fixed Broadband Map: [Home](#) | [Fixed Broadband Deployment Data](#) | [Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](#)

RDOF Map: [Rural Digital Opportunity Fund \(RDOF\) - Map, Auction and Analysis: BroadbandNow](#)

Impact of Covid-19

THREE IMPACTS

1. Dauphin citizens had to work/learn/live from home using digital technologies- Broadband became a necessity.
2. Initial federal response created overlapping, rushed grant programs-local jurisdictions were unprepared.
3. New federal infrastructure bill allocates \$65 billion for broadband -*local jurisdictions must become experts fast.*

Dauphin County Approach

- **Measured:**
 - Did not rush in to support every possible program.
- **Prudent:**
 - Did not obligate new funding to hastily derived projects.
- **Focused:**
 - Did not change overall approach solely in response to grant availability.
- **Effective:**
 - Executed projects that have a tangible impact on local residents.
- **We know broadband access is important to Dauphin County**
- **We want to target our resources to the most cost -effective solutions**

Activities to Date

- Assisted Comcast with submission of PA Act 132 Grant application for Northern Dauphin County sites.
- Worked with PA-DCED to ensure Northern Dauphin County service areas were included in state's federal NTIA application.
- Monitoring other ISP applications and Digital Opportunity Fund awards.
- Established working relationship with PA Cable Broadband Association.
- Continuing conversations with other ISPs – keeping our “ear to the ground”.
- Coordinating with South Central PREP Broadband Committee.
- Created a working map to visualize areas of need overlaid with potential projects.
- Attended first PA Broadband Authority meeting and keeping in regular communication.
- Presented broadband update to municipalities at Local Govt. Forum.

Current ISP Grant Submissions

Comcast - PA Act 132 Grant - UHSB Program

- Halifax and Reed Townships- 16 miles/89 residential/10 business passings
- Up to 1.2 Gbps/35 Mbps residential speeds
- Up to 100 Gbps business speeds.
- Revised scope due to Frontier challenge.
- \$1,059,062 total project cost.
- 12-18 month project timeline.
- CFA awards anticipated March 22^d

DCED/Comcast - NTIA - Broadband Infrastructure Program

- Halifax, Jefferson, Jackson, Rush, Reed, Upper Paxton, Washington, Lykens, Wayne - 457 residential/34 businesses
- PA-DCED is applicant.
- Must provide speeds of at least 100/20.
- Award decision expected in shortly.
- Award would free up state UHSB funding for other projects.

<https://arcg.is/0DWGni0>

Current ISP Grant Submissions

Paradise Energy Solutions dba Upward Broadband- PA Act 132 Grant - UHSB Program

- Proposes wireless network utilizing 7 existing private tower sites.
- Estimates serving 393 census blocks.
- **UHSB application recently withdrawn.** Still seeking funding for project.
- Questions about scalability of technology compared to fiber.



Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction - Phase 1

- \$1,822,681 awarded to three ISPs for projects in Dauphin County over next several years.
 - Bidders committed to deploy broadband to service areas based on FCC Form 477 data in **census blocks completely unserved by existing broadband provider providing at least 25/3 speeds.**
- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|----------------|
| • Connect Everyone, LLC | - | \$349,468.27 | - | South DC |
| • Fixed Wireless | - | Gigabit (1Gb/500Mb or greater) | | |
| • Frontier Communications | - | \$1,129,474 | - | 435 locations. |
| • Fiber/Fixed Wireless | - | Gigabit (1Gb/500Mb or greater) | | |
| • SpaceX | - | \$343,738 | - | 238 locations. |
| • Low Earth Orbit Satellite | - | Above Baseline (100Mb/20Mb or greater) | | |

Map of proposed project areas: <https://arcg.is/ODWGni0>

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- \$65 billion for broadband infrastructure.
 - \$42 billion in Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program.
 - Grants to states to administer sub-grants.
- New broadband bureaucracy across three levels of government.
- Relies heavily on federal maps. FCC updated maps pending.
- Expect PA to get over \$100 million to administer statewide.
- 25% matching requirements.

PA Broadband Authority & State Planning

- Created by Act 96 of 2021 to attempt to coordinate and streamline broadband deployment and manage federal infrastructure dollars.
- Charged with creating a statewide broadband plan and distributing state and federal grant dollars to underserved areas. Plan must be drafted in collaboration with local and regional entities.
- Will manage a minimum of \$100 million in federal infrastructure funds for broadband and create a strategy for coordinated rollout of funds.
- 11 Member board including appointees from caucuses, cabinet secretaries, PUC, state agencies.
- Draft plan is expected in 2022 with opportunity for county stakeholder input. Monitoring status of plan and communicating with Authority staff.
- Run through DCED, will also develop grant process and administer direct grants to eligible applicants (potentially counties, munis, ISPs).
- First meeting held on February 15th - mostly housekeeping/introductory. Expect local outreach.

Recommended Next Steps

- **Plan**
 - Start collecting and compiling relevant data for upcoming opportunities.
- **Prioritize**
 - Rank projects based on community priorities.
- **Communicate**
 - Stay involved with PA Broadband Authority planning process.
 - Continue to support proven ISPs in applications to state and federal programs.
 - Engage Northern Dauphin County municipalities on status of broadband initiatives.
- **If the opportunity arises, Dauphin will be prepared with data, discipline, and relationships to improve our broadband infrastructure.**
- **If the grants require Dauphin to divert from local priorities, we can confidently explain to the public why we chose a different course of action.**

Questions