#### Jefferson County Broadband Committee Meeting Via GoToMeeting Wednesday September 29, 2021 3:00 PM

Members Present – Sandy McDonald, Stephanie Grove, Russell Burgess, Jane Tabb

# Others Present – David Deamer, Rachel Snavely, Keith McIntosh, Jamie Hoffman, Matthew Plaster, Steven Allen, Elizabeth Ricketts, Patti Mulkeen-Corley

- 1. Welcome; Roll call
- 2. Call to order
  - **a.** Stephanie Grove called the meeting to order
- 3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Jane Tabb motion to approve agenda; Sandy McDonald second
- 4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Stephanie Grove motion to approve minutes; Russell Burgess second
- 5. Update from WV Broadband Enhancement Council
  - a. Keith McIntosh provided resources on broadband funding
    - i. BroadbandUSA page through the NTIA highlights all federal funding for broadband
    - **ii.** Provides resources available to local governments and shows programs for infrastructure deployments
    - iii. His office will provide a letter of support for broadband deployment
  - **b.** Rachel Snavely asked if ARP funds can be used as a match and how will the RDOF census blocks impact the current funding sources?
  - **c.** Jamie Hoffman added that the US Treasury guidelines have been released and the RDOF census blocks are still being determined. The proposed WV GigReady program will potentially permit ARP funds to be used as a match.
  - **d.** Matthew Plaster added that no WV ISP has been awarded funding through the RDOF auction.
  - e. David Deamer gave a brief overview of the NTIA Infrastructure Program for \$288 that closed in August. There were 230 applicants with over \$2.5 Billion in requests.
- 6. American Rescue Plan Act Funding Programs Jamie Hoffman
  - **a.** Jamie Hoffman highlighted the WV ARP Capitol Projects Funding
    - i. Line Extension Advancement and Development (LEAD), Major Broadband Project Strategies (MBPS), and GigReady Incentive
    - ii. Treasury guidelines released last week for the funding
    - iii. Webinar for local governments on October 27 to outline the GigReady program
    - iv. According to the treasury guidelines, fixed wireless is not eligible
    - v. The WV Broadband Enhancement Council is mapping Unserved, Likely Unserved, Likely Served, Served address points.
    - vi. They have asked existing ISPs for network information and cable/fiber infrastructure to help better show the unserved regions of WV
    - vii. Planning on publishing better mapping in two weeks

- viii. Focusing on areas that are served by cellular, satellite and DSL technologies
- **ix.** Strongly encouraging residents/businesses to take their speed tests to help map the unserved/served areas in WV
- **x.** He stated that he did receive survey data from Jefferson County to help map the unserved/served areas

# 7. Proposed New Towers in Jefferson County

- **a.** David Deamer and Stephanie Grove discussed the proposed Blue Ridge Tower. The propagation study did not show to serve many unserved addresses.
- **b.** David Deamer recommended the Health Department Tower or the Middleway Fire Department before the tower on the Blue Ridge.
- **c.** Both David and Stephanie agreed to wait for WV Broadband Enhancement Council mapping to be published before pursuing new towers.
  - i. The LEAD programs may cover some of the areas near proposed broadband towers.

# 8. Shepherdstown Water Tank Update

- **a.** David Deamer expressed that the Shepherdstown Town Council and Water Authority are interested in moving forward with allowing cellular/broadband providers to outfit the Shepherdstown Water Tanks with equipment.
- **b.** The Wireless Network Group will likely be managing the cellular assets on the water tanks.

### 9. Next steps and timeline / Implementation

- **a.** Attend the October 27 webinar about the GigReady program
- **b.** Wait on WV Broadband Enhancement Council mapping before pursuing towers
- **c.** David Deamer to send over speed test information over to Jefferson County to put on social media/website

### 10. Announcements/Old Business

a. Matthew Plaster introduced himself as Senator Capito Broadband Advisor

### 11. Citizen Comment

a. None

### 12. Adjournment; next meeting October 27, 2021 at 3:00PM