

Oneida County Technology Committee Meeting  
Monday, January 21, 2013 1:00 p.m.  
Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2  
1 S. Oneida Avenue  
Rhinelander, WI 54501

**Committee Members present:** Dave Hintz/County Board Supervisor and Committee Chairman, Billy Fried/County Board Supervisor, Bob Martini/County Board Supervisor, Don Sidlowski/Three Lakes Town Chair

**Committee Members not present:** Dan Hess/Lieutenant – Oneida County Sheriff's Department

**Committee Advisors present:** Lynn Grube/Oneida County Information Technology Services Director, Roger Luce/Oneida County Economic Development Corporation, Joe Hegge/Grow North Regional Economic Development Corporation, Tim Brown/UW-Extension Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development Agent

**Others present:** None

**Call the meeting to order:**

Chairman Hintz called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

**Approve meeting agenda with order of items at discretion of Chairman:**

Motion by Fried to approve today's agenda. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martini. All members present voting 'Aye'. Motion carried.

**Approve minutes of December 14, 2012 meeting:**

Motion by Martini to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2012 meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fried. All members present voting 'Aye'. Motion carried.

**Broadband Mapping:**

Hintz feels broadband mapping is not a critical step but current mapping available will be helpful in educating the public and county board in moving forward. Sidlowski feels there is a "first mover" advantage to developing cell and internet service; however providers will not come searching for Oneida County. The county needs to build a broadband system and actively approach providers regarding service so broadband mapping is important in helping the county determine and fill the gaps in areas not yet connected.

**Consortium/Consolidation/Coordinating Efforts:**

Committee discussed different ways to educate the County Board and public on Technology Committee efforts and plans. The Committee agrees working with other counties in the future may be beneficial but it would be best to begin with a county wide break out event first. Hegge discussed attending the Treehaven Summit.

Brown provided handout "Forming a Successful Consortium" and discussed three more specific goals that he has drawn from the Goals and Objectives at the December 14<sup>th</sup> Technology Committee meeting. The first goal is to work on getting support from the Oneida County Board for the committee and its efforts. The second goal is identifying policies and laws within the county that might be hindering providers from expanding their coverage within the county or laws that are not in harmony with each other. For example, many of the townships have differing rules regarding cell towers and allowed tower heights. Third, in the event townships agree to bear the primary responsibility of developing a technology infrastructure, this committee should find ways to provide resources for township use such as education on why broadband development is important, resource manuals, funding sources/options and administrative support when possible/necessary.

Sidlowski and Luce discussed a meeting they attended with Packerland Broadband. Luce states areas such as Eau Claire set the goal 10 years ago to build broadband and proceeded to lay fiber each time they tore up and repaved a road even if the fiber wasn't needed at that time. As a result, the Eau Claire area has a very strong technology

infrastructure. Sidlowski states if Oneida County can agree to the initial investment of starting to lay fibers, even if they will not be used right away (known as a dark fiber), this will help in bringing providers to the area. Also, in the long run having property that is all set up with broadband will be much more marketable to outside companies which can generate jobs and the county's economy. The committee agrees that they will need to start with getting the county board committed on investing and building broadband in the county. Martini feels there may not be time in a routine County Board meeting agenda to discuss technology and this committee would need to set special county board meeting(s) to just discuss plans and efforts of this committee. Martini also notes that it would be a good idea, amidst the worry about the Rhinelander Paper Mill possibly closing, to focus on building technology to help bring new and different companies into the area to offset lost jobs and income of the paper mill, in the event it would close.

A discussion was held on setting assignments for committee members and advisors to proceed on plans. Fried and Martini will talk with town chairs to gather information for the committee on which townships are interested or ready to participate and fund broadband expansion for their township and at what level. Sidlowski and Brown will come up with a five step action plan to proceed; Hintz requests that the steps be very specific. Hintz and Hegge will work on county board collaboration and getting a technology focused county board meeting scheduled. The Committee agrees the first meeting scheduled would focus on the Technology Committee members and advisors providing information to the County Board. Possible follow-up meetings would then be for public input and questions.

**Goals and Objectives:**

Hintz feels the committee has addressed this issue in the previous agenda item and assignments to committee members will work towards the updated goals and objectives of this committee. Fried agrees on the importance of technology in building our local economy but also wants to emphasize the importance of including school districts in this process.

**Public comments:**

None

**Next meeting date:**

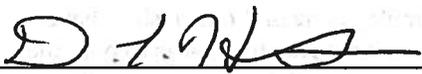
To be announced

**Future agenda topics:**

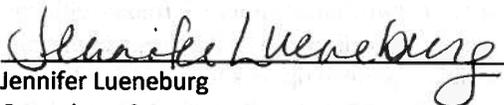
- Updates on committee members assignments
- Results on local surveys
- Possible mechanisms of getting commitment from local townships after talking with them

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Sidlowski to adjourn meeting. 2nd by Martini. All members present voting 'Aye'. Motion carried. Adjourn at 2:45 p.m.



Dave Hintz  
Committee Chair



Jennifer Lueneburg  
Committee Secretary