

Resolution 2021 - 04
Town of Trade Lake, Burnett County Wisconsin

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ARPA GRANT APPLICATION BY FARMERS INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE COMPANY DBA GRANTSBURG TELCOM TO EXPAND BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO AREAS OF THE TOWN OF TRADE LAKE

Whereas, The Town of Trade Lake has a responsibility to assist its citizens in securing the essential services for daily life, including reliable broadband services; and

Whereas, improved broadband is necessary to all citizens for education, health care, communication, interactions with government, farming and business operations, entertainment, commerce and future uses yet to be developed; and

Whereas, the need for broadband service is growing daily and the lack of broadband internet service is a major roadblock to attracting economic development which limits the Town's residents in their use of this critical technology for education, communications, access to government services and other factors affecting quality of life.

Whereas, portions of the of the Town of Trade Lake lack the current minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload as defined by the American Rescue Plan Act Interim Rule; and

Whereas, inquiries from Town residents support findings that broadband speeds and access to reliable, affordable broadband services to be non-existent, poor or inadequate; and

Whereas, Farmers Independent Telephone Company (FITC) is applying for a grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Broadband Access Grants as administered by the state's Public Service Commission (PSC); and

Whereas, Governor Evers recently announced the opening of the application window for the \$100,000,000 in ARPA funds; then

Be it resolved, that the duly elected officials of the Town of Trade Lake hereby provide this resolution of support for the ARPA Grant application being submitted in 2021 to the PSC by Farmers Independent Telephone Company for funding to expand high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband communications services in the Town; and

Be it further resolved, that the Town of Trade Lake Board will partner with FITC in its efforts to expand and upgrade the broadband infrastructure in the Town of Trade Lake, and offer assistance where possible, including an expedited permitting process where required; and

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be submitted to FITC, the Wisconsin PSC, other interested parties, and pertinent State of Wisconsin elected officials.

Adopted July 6, 2021

By Ramona Moody
Ramona Moody, Chairperson

The town clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required by law under Sec.60.80 of Wis. Statutes. Resolution takes effect the day after posting.

Attested by Clerk Marjorie Gravelle Date: 7-6-2021
Marjorie Gravelle

Posted on: 7/6/2021 Time: 8:15pm