

**Town of Sterling, Polk County Wisconsin
Resolution # 072621**

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

Whereas, The Town of Sterling (Town) 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 Sterling lack the current minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload as defined by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final 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, Governor Tony Evers recently announced the opening of the application window for the \$100,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to expand access across Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Farmers Independent Telephone Company (FITC) is applying for a grant as part of the American Rescue Plan Act Broadband Access Grants (ARPA Grant) as administered by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW); then

Be it resolved, that the duly elected officials of the Town of Sterling hereby provide this resolution of support for the ARPA Grant application being submitted in 2021 to the PSCW by FITC for funding to expand high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband communications services in the Town; and

Be it further resolved, that the Town of Sterling Board will preferentially support FITC in its efforts to expand and upgrade the broadband infrastructure in the Town, and offer assistance where possible, including an expedited permitting process where required; regularly scheduled planning, prioritization and digital literacy meetings to enhance the proposed project's impact; and

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

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

Dated this 26th day of July, 2021

Roll Call Vote:

SRW

Chairman Steve Wilson

Aye ☒

Nay ☐

Keith D. Ward

Supervisor Keith Ward

Aye ☒

Nay ☐

Attested by clerk:

M. Lisa / M. Dwyer

Date:

7/26/2021

Posted on:

8/2/2021