



SIREPA

SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL ECONOMIC & PORT AUTHORITY

Minutes of the SIREPA Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom or in Person at KL Megla Building
2495 280th St, Montrose, IA

I. **Call to Order** at 1:00 p.m. by Mike Hickey

Roll Call:

Members Present: Director Mike Hickey (Vice Chair); Director Michael Dunn (Treasurer) via Zoom; Director Jack Smith via Zoom; Director Bob Dodds; Director Bruce Hardy; Matt Larson, Ex-Officio via Zoom

Members Absent: Director Denise Boyer (Chair); Garry Seyb, Ex-Officio; Rick Larkin, Ex-Officio
SEIRPC Staff Present: Mike Norris; Sherri Jones via Zoom

Guest(s) Present: Chuck Vandenberg, Pen City Current; Dennis Fraise, Lee County Economic Development Group; Nancy Snaadt, Alliant Energy via Zoom; Tim Fencl, Danville Telecom

II. **Consider Approval of Agenda (Board Action):**

Smith made a motion to approve the July 27, 2021, meeting agenda, second by Hardy. All ayes, motion carried.

III. **Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (Board Action):**

Hardy made a motion to approve the June 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes, second by Dodds. All ayes, motion carried.

IV. **Public Hearing: Danville Telco Lee County Broadband Proposal to Serve Tier 1 Underserved Areas (Board Action):**

Hickey opened the Public Hearing at 1:03 p.m. Norris gave a project background stating that Lee County has multiple areas underserved by broadband providers. SIREPA members and stakeholders identified broadband expansion in Lee County as a top priority in the SIREPA 5-year Strategic Plan and process. Lee County Economic Development Group (LCEDG) paid to have a telecommunications engineering firm develop a plan to serve the unserved areas of Lee County designated as Tier 1 areas. The plan to serve Tier 1 areas included Danville Mutual Telephone Co. Danville has invested over \$6 million into fiberoptic expansion into Lee County, which is in Danville's service area. The total plan cost estimate to serve Tier 1 areas in Lee County is \$5,462,000 which includes 60 miles of fiber backbone, 55 miles of other fiber service to customers, and 121 individual customers in the Tier 1 area. Project funding breakdown consists of \$3,552,250 (65% OCIO Grant) and \$1,912,750 (35% SIREPA/ARPA). Tim Fencl, Danville Mutual Telephone Company, discussed the proposal in more detail. SIREPA would own the fiber backbone and Danville own the service to individual customers. SIREPA would lease the backbone to Danville over 10 years for a fee of half the local match in total and Danville would own the backbone after 10 years. Hickey asked for comments, and no further comments were made. Smith made a motion to close the Public Hearing: Danville Telco Lee County Broadband Proposal to Serve Tier 1 Underserved Areas at 1:36 p.m., second by Hardy. All Ayes, motion carried.

V. Resolution No. 2-2021: A Resolution to Support Lee Co Tier 1 Broadband Project with Danville Mutual Telephone Co. (Board Action):

Dodds made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2-2021: A Resolution to Support Lee Co Tier 1 Broadband Project with Danville Mutual Telephone Co., second by Smith. A roll call vote was taken. All ayes, motion carried.

VI. Pre-Lease Letter of Understanding with LCEDG (Board Action):

Norris reviewed the letter of understanding with Lee County Economic Development Group regarding pre-lease occupation of the KL Megla Building. This letter acts as official communication to LCEDG to occupy the facility in advance of a formal lease agreement as one is forthcoming. Dodds made a motion to approve the Pre-Lease Letter of Understanding with LCEDG as presented, second by Hardy. All ayes, motion carried.

VII. Matters from the Floor:

Norris mentioned that By-Laws need to be updated and SEIRPC will be invoicing soon. No action necessary.

VIII. Adjourn (Board Action):

Smith made a motion to adjourn at 1:49 p.m., second by Hardy. All ayes, motion carried.