

**ROSEAU CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY – May 26, 2021 at 11:30 A.M.
Roseau City Council Chambers**

The special meeting of the Roseau City Council was held on the above date, time and place. Members present were, Mayor Dan Fabian, Councilmembers: Pat Novacek, Amy Bassingthwaite, and Jane Evans; CDC Todd Peterson, City Attorney Michelle Moren and Jack Swanson WILD102 Radio. Others present included: John Wynne, Wynne Consulting; Dick Sjoberg, Sjoberg's Inc. and Allan Lundeen, Wikstrom Telephone.

Mayor Dan Fabian called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

There was one item on the agenda for the special meeting:

- Public Hearing to consider a resolution and submission of a Small Cities Development Grant application for Broadband Internet Infrastructure Development

Councilmember Pat Novacek motioned, seconded by Councilmember Jane Evan to open the public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

CDC Peterson provided background on the recently announced Federal funds being made available for broadband infrastructure development as a result of the COVID pandemic and the need for people to have better access to broadband capacity for work at home and distance learning. CDC Peterson outlined that the funds were being made available through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and their Small Cities Development Program grant process. The program was just recently announced so there has been very little time to get our application together.

John Wynne the city's grant writer spoke about the process of submitting the grant and some of the requirements needed to complete the application.

Dick Sjoberg, Sjoberg's Inc. appeared to discuss its effort to bring broadband service to the community. Mr. Sjoberg indicated that Sjoberg's Inc is committed to serving the Roseau community and that they have worked hard to bring broadband capacity to the community, particularly the business community. A question was posed about Sjoberg's ability to meet the State's minimum speed threshold of 100 mbs download and 20 mbs upload speeds. Mr. Sjoberg indicated they have the capacity to provide those speeds, but they have not done a good job or marketing and promoting their improvements and upgraded speeds. Mr. Sjoberg questioned the wisdom of the City overbuilding private investment of local companies.

It was discussed that the City is applying for funds to improve the broadband capacity in the community and that any of the current providers may be selected to receive the funding if their proposal improves broadband capacity to local residents.

Al Lundeen, Wikstrom Telephone, commented on service territories and that he will be interested in understanding how these broadband funds would be distributed by DEED.

The question was posed on whether there would be support for an application by the City to improve broadband capacity. It seemed that all were in favor of seeking funding, but there was

some concern expressed about funding allocation and duplication of services. Consensus was to move on an application.

Councilmember Jane Evans motioned, seconded by Amy Bassingthwaite to close the public hearing.

Councilmember Pat Novacek motioned, seconded by Amy Bassingthwaite to introduce the following resolution for its consideration:

Local Government Resolution # 27 - 21

Applicant Name: Roseau, Minnesota

BE IT RESOLVED that Roseau, Minnesota act as the legal sponsor for the project contained in the Application to be submitted on June 1, 2021 and that the Mayor and Community Development Coordinator are hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of Roseau, Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Roseau, Minnesota has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Roseau, Minnesota has not violated and Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the State, Roseau, Minnesota may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the approved project, and that Roseau, Minnesota certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Community Development Coordinator, or their successors in office, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements, and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Applicant.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the City Council of Roseau on May 26, 2021.

Signed

Witnessed

All those voting in favor of the resolution: Fabian, Novacek, Evans & Bassingthwaite

Those voting against: None

Absent: Johnson

There being no further business Councilmember Amy Bassingthwaite motioned, seconded by Councilmember Jane Evans to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.