

RESOLUTION # 09-24-19-2**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING THE
INSTALLATION OF FIBER OPTICS BY PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE RURAL AREA OF
AKRON, IOWA**


WHEREAS, Premier Communications has identified a need to make improvements to the communication system in rural Akron by a complete rebuild and installation of fiber optics; and the Plymouth County Board of Supervisors fully supports the need for this project.

WHEREAS, the project will be financed by Premier Communications, including an application to the State of Iowa's Broadband Grant Program.

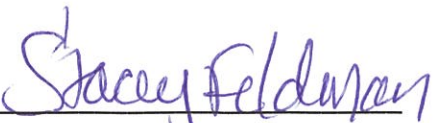
WHEREAS, investment in infrastructure, such as the proposed fiber project, will greatly benefit businesses, agriculture and residents alike in the rural areas of Akron by providing state-of-the-art broadband services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Plymouth County Board of Supervisors does hereby express its enthusiastic support for the Akron rural fiber installation project and furthermore encourages the State of Iowa to act favorably upon the application for financial assistance.

Signed this 24th day of September, 2019.



Don Kass, Chairman
Plymouth County Board of Supervisors

Attest: 
Stacey Feldman, Plymouth County Auditor

RESOLUTION 2019-32**A RESOLUTION OF THE SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING THE
INSTALLATION OF FIBER OPTICS BY PREMIER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE RURAL AREA
OF HAWARDEN, IOWA**

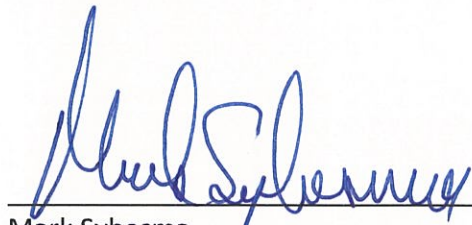
WHEREAS, Premier Communications has identified a need to make improvements to the communication system in rural Hawarden by a complete rebuild and installation of fiber optics; and the Sioux County Board of Supervisors fully supports the need for this project.

WHEREAS, the project will be financed by Premier Communications, including an application to the State of Iowa's Broadband Grant Program.

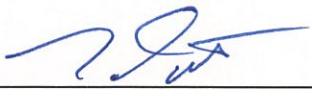
WHEREAS, investment in infrastructure, such as the proposed fiber project, will greatly benefit businesses, agriculture and residents alike in the rural areas of Hawarden by providing state-of-the-art broadband services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Sioux County Board of Supervisors does hereby express its enthusiastic support for the Hawarden rural fiber installation project and furthermore encourages the State of Iowa to act favorably upon the application for financial assistance.

Signed this 17th day of September, 2019



Mark Sybesma
Chairman, Sioux County Board of Supervisors

Attest: 
Ryan Dokter
Sioux County Auditor



LeMars Daily Sentinel

PLYMOUTH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

It's all about speed

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

By Kim Fickett, Editor



AKRON — In today's world everyone wants access to the news, Internet, and even cable television, faster and at their fingertips.

Premier Communications is continuing its effort to make that a reality for its customers and non-customers alike as part of its exchange rebuild project.

According to Scott TeStroete, Premier's chief sales and marketing officer, after purchasing Consolidated Communications three years ago, a promise was made to their customers. That promise was to complete a fiber rebuild of those areas.

Over the last 10 years, Premier has invested more than \$125 million in putting fiber in the ground across northwest Iowa.

“We started in Sibley and worked our way down. Now we are ready to start a \$12 million rebuild of the Akron and Hawarden exchanges,” TeStroete explained. “These are two large land mass exchanges, which even covers some of South Dakota and nearly extends to I-29. By the fall of 2020, 422 miles of fiber will be installed in rural Akron and Hawarden, impacting 1,300 locations.”

Within the next couple of weeks, Premier will begin sending information to customers and non-customers regarding site surveys. During the site surveys, Premier employee will visit homes and businesses in the area to determine where stakes will need to be placed and to mark fiber utility box placement on the dwelling’s exterior.

According to a pamphlet created by Premier, “if the surveyors determine that an outlet needs to be installed at your location, Premier Communications will pay for the installation. There will be no cost to you for any portion of this project even if you are not a Premier customer.”

With the site surveys complete, crews will move on to the second phase of the fiber process, where fiber is placed in the ground. It is estimated that may take three to six months to complete.

“We will start with the Akron exchange first with fiber going in the ground next spring,” TeStroete stated.

TeStroete noted fiber will be placed in the public right-of-ways and current easements Premier has.

Once fiber has been installed in the ground, the technicians will begin “splicing” the fiber from the main lines and connecting them to the smaller lines which run to homes and businesses.

When this is complete, over the next two months, fiber will be connected from Premier’s main network lines to the box on the dwelling’s exterior.

The final installation step will bring fiber into the home and/or business.

“Also known as a ‘cut-over,’ we complete the process by connecting your home to the new fiber network. Cabling is installed from the box on the side of your house through to your basement. Once this is complete, all of your services will be running on our fiber optic network,” the pamphlet explained. This final step is estimated to be completed within two hours.

“When we purchased these territories three years ago, we made that commitment to the customers to invest. We said we would and I think we’re being true to our word,” TeStroete said.

With fiber in place, TeStroete said the capabilities are endless. “Then one can imagine.”

Le Mars Hy-Vee Gas affected in data breach

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“If you live out in the eastern part of Akron a^{5 of 11} regarding DSL or high speed Internet, because the lines are that old and made of copper,” TeStroete explained. “Currently you may have to use a cellular hot spot or wireless Internet, which aren’t ideal, and you can’t do much with those because you can only shove so much through those little waves.”

“For those people, this is going to really great. They will now have the same capability as those who live a block from our office in Le Mars. Location will no longer matter,” he added.

The capabilities of fiber optics will cause a ripple effect extending to students, as well as farmers.

“If you have a student, both Akron-Westfield and West Sioux are 1:1, so every student has a computer. That’s a big deal to be able to have these capabilities. Good broadband at home is a big deal because that’s how it works anymore. It’s technology based and Internet based,” TeStroete said. “If you’re a farmer, I think it’s huge in terms of hog buildings and monitoring, cameras, alarms, feedlots, and even plugging in your combine to download the latest software.”

Customers will have six options for fiber service including: 25 MB, 75 MB, 150 MB, 250 MB, and 1 GB.

“75 MB and 150 MB are the sweet spot where 10 years ago, 1 MB and 3 MB, were the sweet spot, so you can see how that’s changing and we change with that,” TeStroete explained. “Right now some of those customers in Akron and Hawarden may only have 3 MB but will be able to go up to 150 MB, as far as capacity and speed it will be a tremendous difference.”

TeStroete, along with Angie Erdmann, business and community relations with Premier, went before the Plymouth County Board of Supervisors at a recent meeting asking them to sign a resolution supporting Premier’s application for the Iowa Broadband Grant.

Last year Premier was a recipient of a \$740,000 grant towards the \$6.4 million exchange rebuild project of the Hull, Boyden and Ireton area.

“This year we are applying as well and asking for \$1 million towards the Iowa side of the project, which account for \$10 million of the \$12 million total project cost,” TeStroete explained.

The board supported the resolution unanimously. TeStroete said Premier is hoping to hear whether or not they are a grant recipient by the end of November.

Premier, which is based out of Sioux Center, offers voice, video and data services. Established in 1906, it has retail centers in Le Mars, Sioux Center, Rock Rapids and Hospers, and employees a staff of 90.

Le Mars Hy-Vee Gas affected in data breach

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Serving the Sioux Center area since 1892

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 2:34 PM

https://www.nwestiowa.com/scnews/premier-communications-readies-fiber-project/article_6b114374-dfc4-11e9-9dbe-c7a2045514ac.html

FEATURED

Premier Communications readies fiber project

Eric Sandbulte esandbulte@nwestiowa.com Sep 25, 2019 Updated Sep 27, 2019



7 of 11
Scott TeStroete, chief sales marketing officer with Premier Communications, sought support from the Sioux County supervisors for a planned fiber optic project in the rural Hawarden and Akron areas next year.

Eric Sandbulte esandbulte@nwestiowa.com

ORANGE CITY—Premier Communications is preparing for a large infrastructure project in the Hawarden and Akron areas.

Ahead of the work, Premier Communications' chief sales marketing officer Scott TeStroete came to Tuesday's Sioux County Board of Supervisors meeting to gain its support through a resolution.

Doing so should help Premier Communications as it seeks grants to help fund the project, TeStroete said.

The supervisors ultimately supported the resolution, 4-0. Supervisor Jerry Muilenburg was absent.

The project will be a "complete fiber rebuild" in the rural areas around Hawarden and Akron, according to TeStroete.

"The infrastructure that's there was put in years and years ago. It's old copper lines," TeStroete said. "We understand everything is about broadband, and that's why we're investing heavily, because our customers need better internet access."

The beauty of fiber optics, he added, is that it is readily expandable.

"You can continually add to its capacity," TeStroete said.

It is work that has been planned by the company ever since it purchased Consolidated Communications a few years ago.

The work in rural Hawarden and Akron is planned for spring 2020 and expected to be complete before the end of that year.

Some preparatory work is already underway, TeStroete said.

“What we’re planning to do this fall is go and do these site surveys, where we survey the customer premise,” he said. “Get all that ready for next spring.”

Letters will be sent to customers notifying them of the site surveys in a few weeks.

Premier Communications has yet to apply for the grants for the project.

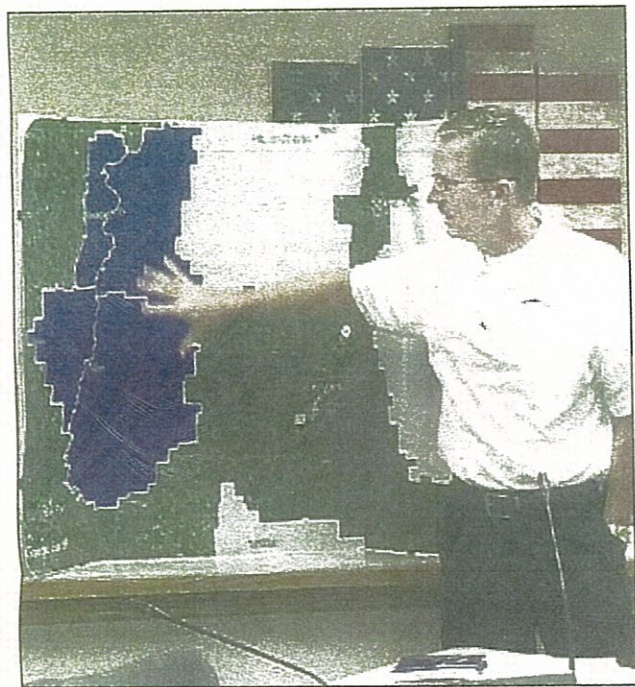
TeStroete added that a similar resolution of support will be sought from Plymouth County.

Premier Communications did the same thing in February ahead of its grant application for work in Hull and Ireton, seeking and gaining supervisor resolution of support.

Heartland Telecommunications DBA Premier Communications was awarded two grants through the Iowa Broadband Grant Program for that work. It was awarded nearly \$740,000 with the two grants.

MORE INFORMATION

closed the pool a few days



Premier Communication Chief Sales & Marketing Manager Scott TeStroete and (not shown:) Business/Community Relations Representative Angie Erdmann requested supervisors' support of their rural Akron and Hawarden grant application to Iowa Broadband Grant Program for fiber optics installation.

Rural Akron, Hawarden to get 'fiber optics'

By Julie Ann Madden

For the first time ever, rural Akron residents will have the same opportunities for phone, cable TV, high-definition video and high-speed internet services as their urban neighbors.

Up until now, rural residents have had limited access to DSL or would have to rely on satellite or cellular services for internet connectivity.

At the Plymouth County Supervisors' Sept. 24 meeting, Premier Communications staff requested the supervisors support their grant application to the Iowa Broadband Grant Program.

Premier Communications Chief Sales & Marketing Officer Scott TeStroete told the supervisors his company is planning to blanket the former HickoryTech/Consolidated Communications territory in rural Akron and Hawarden with fiber optics in 2020. This includes both the Iowa and South Dakota portions of Akron and Hawarden.

Last year, which was the first year Iowa state

officials offered this grant program, Premier Communications received a \$740,000 grant toward their \$6.5 million project for fiber optic installation in Boyden, Hull and Ireton areas.

Since Premier Communications purchased the former HickoryTech/Consolidated Communications territories three years ago, "part of our goal was to get fiber in as soon as possible," said TeStroete. "We started at the north end and these two (Akron and Hawarden) are next in our process."

Premier Communications has invested \$125 million over the last 10 years in fiber optics installation, he said. The Akron and Hawarden Project is estimated to cost \$12 million, of which \$10 million is for the Iowa portion. Therefore, the Iowa Broadband Grant Program application will be for \$1 million toward the Iowa project costs.

After the grant application is submitted, it'll be a couple months before they know if they receive the

See FIBER OPTICS
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● Fiber Optics

Con't from Page 12

grant, he said.

"We will start the Akron portion first," said TeStroete, explaining Premier Communications will begin mailing letters and booklets to their rural customers now. The packet will explain this project and the process for fiber optics installation.

"The first thing we'll do is site surveys at every address we know," he said, explaining they will be asking potential customers if they'd like fiber optics and if so, Premier Communications staff will figure out the best location for installation. Then the information is given to Premier Communications' mapping

staff.

"We hope to complete this (fiber optics installation) next year," said TeStroete, explaining H & D Underground employees install the fiber optics underground. "It's a big project and we need good weather."

Supervisor John Meis made the motion to approve the resolution giving the supervisors' support of this project, and Supervisor Gary Horton seconded it. The roll call vote was unanimous, 5-0.

TeStroete noted there is no financial commitment needed from the supervisors.

Total Motors to raise

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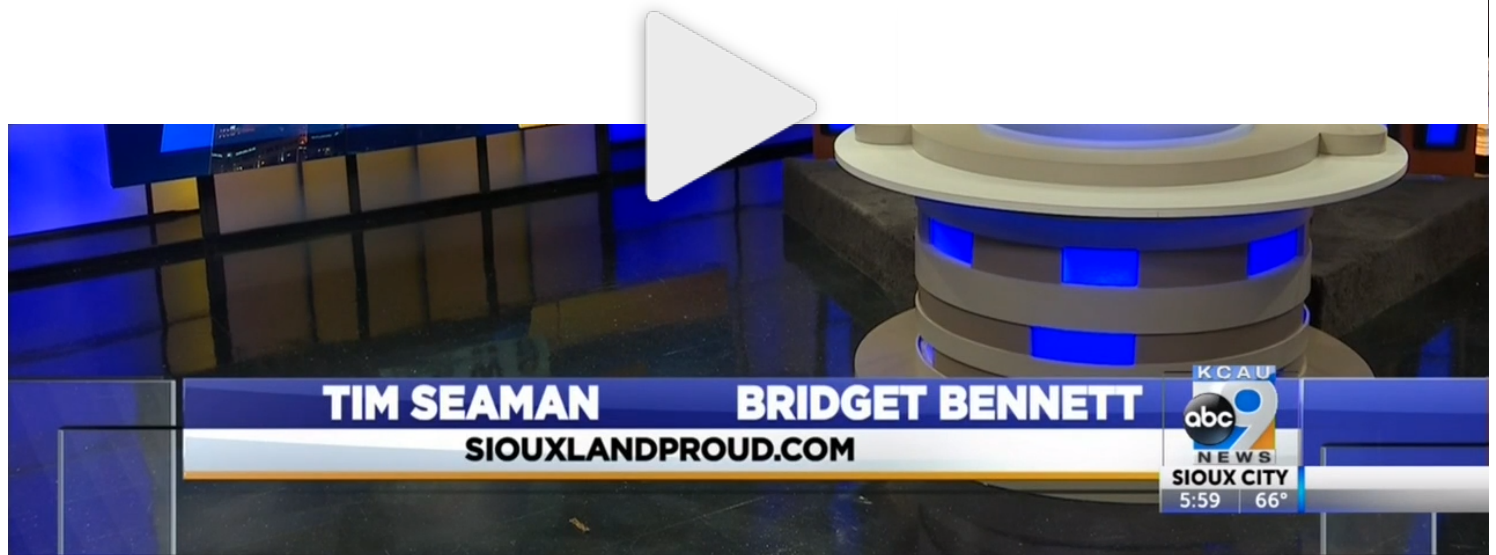
LOCAL NEWS

Rural high-speed internet continues to grow in Siouxland

Broadband expansion in Siouxland continues and by this time next year will include 2 more local communities

Rural High Speed Internet

2 minutes left



by: [JESSICA WATSON](#)

Posted: Oct 14, 2019 / 06:24 PM GMT-0500 / Updated: Oct 14, 2019 / 06:36 PM GMT-0500

SIOUX CENTER, Iowa (KCAU) – Broadband expansion in Siouxland continues and by this time next year will include two more local communities. It's good news for all Siouxlanders but local business owners say its a crucial connection for their future.

47°

connection lags behind, making life difficult for many people trying to manage their farm or run a business.

“We have a hard time looking up parts we have a hard time getting the information we need to repair the vehicles so without it sometimes we are a little dead in the water,” said Jim Viète, the owner of Jim’s Repair.

Jim Viète owns a repair shop just outside of Hawarden. He said right now, his slow internet connection is hurting his business, but thankfully, that’s about to change.

“We promised our customers when we purchased these territories three years ago that we would be putting fiber in and we are living true to that. We have completed a vast majority of that territory and hope to have it done next year,” said Scott Testroete with Premier.

“With fiber coming in, that’s gonna be a big help for us mainly with the reliability and then speed as well,” said Viète.

Viète said it will be a huge step up for him and his customers.

“One of the questions we get is ‘Do you have Wi-Fi?’ And yes we do, but it’s not the best,” said Joe Cain, the manager of Hole N’ The Wall Lodge.

Down the road near Akron, The Hole N’ The Wall Lodge is also excited to see this new amenity coming to their business and their customers.

“With this coming up, it’s gonna be a tremendous help for our business here,” said Cain.

Premier currently has \$125 million invested in installing high-speed internet and the next leg of their plan will invest \$12 million more to add rural Hawarden and Akron to their network.

“It’s what Premier does. This is home. We want to best for our customers and quite honestly we are very proud of that,” said Testroete.

Premier recently completed high-speed internet additions to rural Rock Valley, Hull and Ireton. They expect Hawarden and Akron to be connected by next fall.

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