

RESOLUTION NUMBER 23-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF BREMER COUNTY, IOWA APPROVING AN INVITATION TO QUALIFY APPLICATION; DESIGNATING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAIRPERSON AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRPERSON TO AFFIX THEIR SIGNATURE TO SAID APPLICATION AND CERTAIN ASSURANCES IN CONJUNCTION WITH SAME.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Bremer, Iowa, to avail itself to the Invitation to Qualify application as administered by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO);

WHEREAS, the County is seeking assistance qualifying for future funding to support broadband development;

WHEREAS, the ITQ process allows the County the opportunity to self-identify their need for broadband development;

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the important need for increasing broadband capacity within its community and supports future broadband development;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Bremer County, Iowa, as follows:

1. The Invitation to Qualify application is hereby approved.
2. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is hereby designated as the official representative of the County and is further hereby directed and authorized to affix their signature to said application and certain assurances in conjunction with same.

Passed and adopted this 27th day of March, 2023.


Chairperson

ATTEST:


County Auditor





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PLAINFIELD, IOWA 50666

March 23, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

My name is Andrea Hansen, and I am the CEO and General Manager of Butler-Bremer Communications. Butler-Bremer Communications' home office is in Plainfield, IA and serves multiple communities in Bremer County with fiber-to-the-home. As a locally based company, not only do we serve much of Bremer County, but we also employ several Bremer County residents. This multifaceted perspective allows us to see just how important and valuable reliable high-speed internet is to the vitality of the area.

Butler-Bremer Communications is frequently contacted by individuals just outside of our service area needing the same reliable service our customers benefit from today. Often the requests are from individuals transitioning to a work-from-home scenario or from those enrolled in online classes. We have also received requests from individuals needing reliable service for medical purposes whether that be for telemedicine or electronically sharing medical monitoring reports. Another common inquiry we receive is from individuals considering a home purchase in the area. Reliable internet (or lack thereof) in many instances can be a deciding factor for those looking to relocate. As technology evolves, these various requests continue to increase.

In conclusion, we are in full support of the Bremer County Board of Supervisors raising concern for the un/underserved areas remaining in Bremer County. We understand the many benefits that would come from filling in the rural gaps that continue to exist today and hope that the OCIO gives strong consideration to the Bremer County Board of Supervisors' ITQ application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrea L. Hansen'.

Andrea L Hansen, CEO/GM
Butler-Bremer Communications



March 23, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

As the hospital administrator at Community Memorial Hospital in Sumner, we have seen significant changes in the manner that we deliver healthcare over the past 3 years. We find ourselves relying heavily on more 'wireless' devices within our facility to provide care for the patient population we serve.

Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) provides care to a large population in the eastern half of Bremer County, but the geographical location of our facility also requires us to care for patients from the neighboring counties that are near our location. Our critical access hospital relies on internet service to care for our patients through telehealth visits, wireless equipment that is utilized in different patient care areas, which includes our mobile x-ray machine that is physically moved throughout the building into patient rooms and hand-free communication devices that can be used in emergent situations when working in our emergency department.

Outside of CMH, patients rely on internet services to connect to healthcare providers for remote, telehealth visits. The issues and concerns with the current internet services became more evident through Covid isolation requirements, which required a higher usage rate than previously experienced.

CMH is not unlike any other healthcare facility in the struggles we are experiencing in finding healthcare workers to work in our facility, especially in a smaller, rural community. As a result, we have needed to become more strategic in our recruitment efforts and include options of remote work possibilities in the departments that would allow such work to move remotely. We have recently been able to hire a physician that intends to do remote work on days away from the hospital to provide care to his patients.

Community Memorial Hospital would benefit from a change in internet services within the county to support our mission of being "The Best Care Where and When You Need It". The addition of broadband in our community would not only support our purpose to the community but also provides options to patients to remain in their own homes to receive care. CMH supports the changes that broadband would allow us as a healthcare facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn Everding".

Dawn Everding
Chief Hospital Administrator/CFO



March 21, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

As an economic development organization in Bremer County, Waverly Economic Development supports the Bremer County Supervisors' application to qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. Access to broadband is vital for rural residents, businesses, entrepreneurs and students.

Waverly's largest employer, CUNA Mutual Group, has the vast majority of their 550 employees working remotely from their homes. It is critically important that those employees have access to reliable and robust broadband regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas. Broadband is therefore a workforce issue in Bremer County and an economic necessity in today's business environment.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of the application submitted by the Bremer County Supervisors for the broadband grant program.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Connie Tolan".

Connie Tolan

Planning & Development Specialist
Waverly Economic Development
City of Waverly, Iowa