

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF BLACK HAWK 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 Black Hawk County, 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;

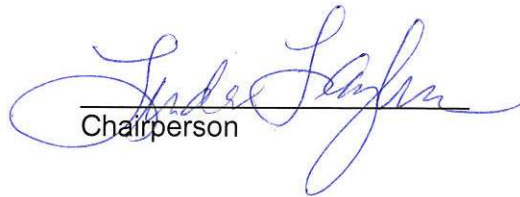
WHEREAS, the ITQ process allows the County the opportunity to self-identify their need for broadband development;

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 Black Hawk 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 28th day of March, 2023.


Chairperson

ATTEST:


County Auditor



1321 5th Street • P.O. Box 107 • Gilbertville, Iowa 50634
319-296-1822 City Hall • 319-296-3238 Fax

March 23, 2023

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

I the City Clerk in Gilbertville and I strongly support the efforts of Black Hawk County to establish a Broadband Intervention Zone. The residents of Gilbertville have not had access to true broadband and this makes it difficult for many of our residents and business to access vital programs and services.

Most residents and businesses within Gilbertville have DSL service from a telephone provider. This old technology is not able to achieve speeds or the reliability required to meet current federal definitions of "broadband" service. Lack of true broadband is unacceptable in a society where education, public safety, government and retail rely on internet access, and require speeds and bandwidth beyond what be delivered by obsolete technology.

Available if affordable high-speed broadband service to all residents and businesses is essential. I fully support Black Hawk County's application for broadband development in Black Hawk County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa Adamson".

Teresa Adamson
City Clerk, Gilbertville Iowa



**701 S CANFIELD ST.
PO BOX 188
DUNKERTON IA 50626
319-822-4512
319-822-2206 (FAX)
www.dunkerton.net**

March 24, 2023

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

This letter is intended to show support for the 'Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) for a Broadband Intervention Zone' for portions of rural northeast Black Hawk County.

In today's environment, reliable broadband service is necessary for work, education, health and leisure. The customers identified as an area of geographic concern in regards to this ITQ are currently served by fixed wireless or satellite providers, which do not facilitate the new standard threshold of 100/20 Mbps.

As a Broadband service provider, we understand the desire the State of Iowa has to connect every Iowan with robust broadband service, however, accomplishing this task is very costly. Most of the population of Black Hawk County reside in the metropolitan area. Services for rural residents are often addressed last because they are challenging to get to and are sparsely populated. This equates to a drastically longer return on investment for service providers.

By summer of 2023, Dunkerton Communications will be serving all current customers with fiber optic broadband service as well as expanding to the unincorporated area of Dewar. Funding from alternative sources, such as grant programs, are necessary for us to continue to build out our fiber optic network to reach these residents in the underserved areas of Black Hawk County.

I hope the OCIO's office will give high consideration to the underserved areas of northeast Black Hawk County and will consider them a geographic area of concern for future grant opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Abbi Kienast

Abbi Kienast, General Manager



March 24, 2023

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

As the lead economic and community development organization serving Black Hawk County, this letter is to show our support for the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors application to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. Providing eligibility for future funding to support building broadband in areas that are underserved is critical in growing the economy and workforce in the county.

Access to broadband is vital for rural residents, businesses, and students. A rural resident or business should not be left unserved because providers make a business decision not to provide acceptable service, and that is the case with some fixed wireless services that have significantly exaggerated the coverage area. Serving rural residents with slow speeds, high latency, and unreliable service in these areas does not contribute to, and in fact can hinder, a growing economy.

The number one concern of our businesses and employers from every sector is attracting and retaining workforce. All people and especially young families require broadband access for remote work, education uses, and entertainment. It is no longer a "want", it is a "need" for Black Hawk County to grow and attract new families and businesses.

We hope you will give favorable consideration to this application for the broadband program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cary Darville".

President & CEO

Grow Cedar Valley, Inc.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

BENNINGTON

4110 E. MOUNT VERNON RD, WATERLOO IA 50703

319-291-6225

stjohnsbennington.com

To Whom it May Concern;

My name is Kelli Snyder and I am the Youth Director at St. John's Bennington Lutheran Church, located in rural northeast Black Hawk County. Our Youth program currently serves 20 members, ages 12-18. As we struggle to attract new, young members to our congregation, we know we must modernize. Our Youth want fast, vibrant, and interactive services with contemporary music and engaging videos. The curriculum we teach now is provided digitally and collaborates with multiple online platforms. The internet has become our favorite teaching assistant and we need robust broadband service to work effectively.

Our Church is located in an area that is currently only served by wireless broadband service. We experience service delays and loss when several devices are connected at the same time. We often experience buffering and latency issues when streaming videos or while video conferencing.

Having reliable broadband service will enable us to continue to grow and support our youth. If we cannot modernize and keep up with current technology trends, we will lose members of our Church congregation. If we lose members of the congregation, that is one less tie they have to remain residing in Black Hawk County.

I hope you give further consideration to qualify our community as an area in need of broadband funding.

Thank you for this opportunity to show support.

Kelli Snyder

St. John's Bennington Youth Director

Dr. Jared Smith

Superintendent

Education Service Center

1516 Washington Street | Waterloo, IA 50702

smithjr@waterlooschools.org

(319) 433-1874



March 30, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Superintendent of Waterloo Schools, I am happy to write this letter in support of the Black Hawk County Supervisor's ITQ application. Waterloo Schools serves a highly diverse population, with over 70% of our students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

The world of education changed during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Students are seeking more diverse methods of learning, one of which is through virtual/online classes. In order to offer effective online learning, we must have adequate internet access. While we have worked hard to provide hotspots to our students and families where needed, the improvement of Broadband internet throughout the entire community and particularly in our more underserved neighborhoods is a necessity.

I strongly urge your financial support of the Black Hawk County Supervisor's application. If you have any questions or would like to discuss my support any further, please feel free to contact me at (319)433-1874 or (319)464-1329.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Jared Smith", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Jared Smith

Superintendent



UnityPoint Health
Allen Hospital

Pamela Delagardelle

President/CEO

1825 Logan Avenue

Waterloo, IA 50703

office (319) 235-3987

fax (319) 235-3906

pamela.delagardelle@unitypoint.org

March 27, 2023

Re: Broadband Development in Black Hawk County

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer:

This letter is an expression of support for the application to Broadband Intervention Zone to create a middle-mile network throughout the city, to encourage improved broadband internet access throughout the city, especially to unserved and underserved areas.

The Broadband Intervention Zone would enable much needed connectivity for internet service providers, improving access at affordable prices for households and businesses. These capabilities will enable advanced health care services, improve distance learning, enable workforce development training, and increase opportunities for economic growth in the city and the surrounding region.

We fully support building broadband in the areas close to Allen Hospital.

Please contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela K. Delagardelle
President & CEO