

# City of Woodward

*"Together For A Better Tomorrow"*

Todd Folkerts, Mayor  
PO Box 517, 105 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Woodward, IA 50276  
515-438-2560 (phone) 515-438-4041(fax)

e-mail: [citywd@minburncomm.net](mailto:citywd@minburncomm.net)

web: [www.woodwardia.org](http://www.woodwardia.org)

August 4, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa  
200 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Minburn Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Minburn Communications (MC). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for MC. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our City of Woodward. With the assistance of this grant, MC's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

The City of Woodward is a small rural community with a population of approx. 1,466. In our community we currently house the high school and middle school for Woodward-Granger Community School District. During this time of COVID-19 the school district was mandated to offer virtual on-line education from home. Our community is primarily lower to moderate income families; therefore, every home may not be able to purchase the broadband internet needed to be able to do the virtual learning that is required. In today's technological environment with families both learning and working from home, lack of band-width and broadband speed, limits both the children and adults in our community.

MC has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the City of Woodward.

Sincerely,



Todd Folkerts  
Mayor  
City of Woodward  
105 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Woodward, IA 50276  
515-438-2560

City Clerk: Angie Hoyt

Utility Billing Clerk: Dawn Kirts

## City Council Members

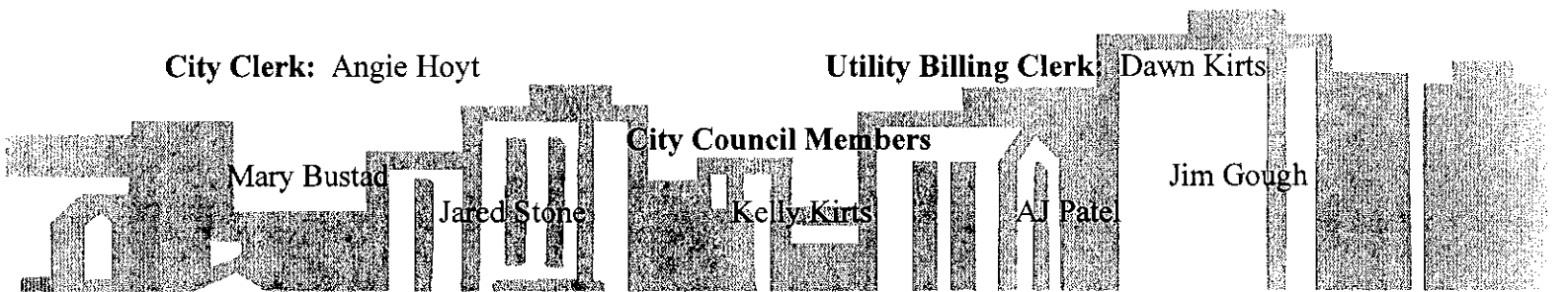
Mary Bustad

Jared Stone

Kelly Kirts

Al Patel

Jim Gough



# DALLAS COUNTY

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- BRAD GOLIGHTLY
- MARK A. HANSON
- KIM CHAPMAN



August 4, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa  
200 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Minburn Communications (MC). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for MC. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our County. With the assistance of this grant, MC's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Many of our rural residents still do not have broadband access. This would be a great benefit to those rural residents.

MC has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Dallas County.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Hanson, Member  
Dallas County Board of Supervisors

---

902 COURT STREET ADEL, IOWA 50003

TEL: 515-993-5806

E-MAIL: [melinda.harney@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:melinda.harney@dallascountyiowa.gov), [brad.golightly@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:brad.golightly@dallascountyiowa.gov)  
[kim.chapman@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:kim.chapman@dallascountyiowa.gov), [mark.hanson@dallascountyiowa.gov](mailto:mark.hanson@dallascountyiowa.gov).

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Minburn Telecommunications, Inc. d/b/a Minburn Communications (MC). We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application for MC. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our school district. With the assistance of this grant, MC's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Woodward-Granger CSD has invested in a 1:1 environment for the past 9 years. We are currently expanding our 1:1 to K-12 for the upcoming year to meet the ever changing and unknown needs of remote learning during COVID. We are trying to prepare ourselves for the possibility of another round of school closures. In our Return to Learn(R2L) planning we identified reliable broadband for every student as a key to providing high quality and equitable learning for all of our students. Students with limited access or no connectivity at home have always impacted the 1:1 learning environment. This spring further spotlighted the issues with limited or no connectivity and how it is no longer a nice to have but a need to have for our learners.

MC has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our Woodward-Granger community.

Sincerely,



Cody Churchill  
Technology Director