

**City of Walker  
204 Greene St.  
PO Box 161  
Walker, IA 52352**

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative  
Attn: Mike Becker  
214 3<sup>rd</sup> St. N.  
Winthrop, IA 50682

Dear Mr. Becker,

A reliable internet service is crucial to keeping the City of Walker in business. We rely on it for filing reports to the Department of Natural Resources, the State of Iowa as well as reading our water meters for our monthly billings. In addition, with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have switched from in person meetings and trainings to web-based interactions.

City Hall sits approximately 1 ½ blocks from our internet providers base and we pay for 100/100 Mbps downloads/uploads are not able to attain those speeds. This negatively impacts the productivity of our employees.

We are excited about the opportunity to have fiberoptics brought to our community to provide reliable internet service to our students who completely rely on it to do their homework and submit assignments as well as those who are now working from home and must be able to rely on video conferencing for their jobs.

The City of Walker fully supports the efforts of the East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative to bring fiber internet and high broadbands speeds to Walker. It is imperative for you to secure grant funding from the State of Iowa to make this a possibility. You cannot bring this opportunity to Walker soon enough!

Thank you for your consideration,



Kene Shoop  
Mayor Pro Tem

KS/cmh

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative  
Attn: Mike Becker  
214 3<sup>rd</sup> St. N  
Winthrop, IA 50682

Dear Mr. Becker,

I was very excited to hear about the possibility of fiber internet coming to Walker. I have three children at home who rely on the internet for all their class work and submission of that work to their teachers. They often must wait until very late in the day/evening to be able to submit their work with our current internet. This is extremely frustrating as we are paying for the maximum speed in our area, and we still see issues with speeds and interruptions in our internet.

In addition, we currently subscribe to YouTube TV and rely on the internet for streaming of those shows. It is almost a daily occurrence that we are "dropped" and must restart the process. In today's day and age, streaming television has become the norm and reliable internet would be a godsend!

I am hoping you can secure the funding needed to bring fiber internet to Walker and cannot wait until you are able to hook everyone up!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Connie Helms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Connie Helms  
815 Rowley St.  
Walker, IA 52352

**From:** Connie Helms <cityclerk@cityofwalkeria.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:21 AM  
**To:** Mike Becker <mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Speed Testing Website  
**Importance:** High

City Hall here at 204 Greene St is set up as a “superbundle” and we are supposed to get 100/100 down/uploads. I just ran another speed test and it was 11.9/.9.

We also have internet at the public works office and the fire department. We pay for 100/100 at both of those sites also so ran speed tests there as well. Here are the results:

408 Rowley St.: 50/29.2 waited 5 minutes and tested again: 23.8/28.9

210 Park St.: 35.2/29.1 waited 5 minutes and tested again: 19.9/25.3

*Connie Helms, ICMC, ICMFO*  
**City Clerk/Treasurer**



204 Greene St.  
Walker, IA 52352  
Ph: (319)448-4359 Fax: (319)448-4766

**Mike Becker**

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**From:** Connie Helms <cityclerk@cityofwalkeria.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** Mike Becker  
**Subject:** RE: Speed Testing Website

**Importance:** High

Mike,

I ran home (815 Rowley St.) and did a quick test. I was only able to get 38.2 download and 6.4 upload and I pay for 100/100. Could you use this to help fight that map??

*Connie Helms, ICMC, ICMFO*  
City Clerk/Treasurer



204 Greene St.  
Walker, IA 52352  
Ph: (319)448-4359 Fax: (319)448-4766

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**From:** Mike Becker <mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Connie Helms <cityclerk@cityofwalkeria.org>  
**Subject:** Speed Testing Website

[iowa.speedtestcustom.com/](http://iowa.speedtestcustom.com/)

Mike Becker  
General Manager  
East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative  
Winthrop IA  
[www.eastbuchanan.com](http://www.eastbuchanan.com)  
Ph 319-935-3011

**Mike Becker**

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**From:** Jenni Benesh <jlkbenesh12@windstream.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 25, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Mike Becker  
**Subject:** Fiberoptic

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of East Buchanan Telephone Cooperatives grant application for federal grant for rural areas. I am in full support of this grant!! Grant funding would be a huge benefit to rural areas here in Eastern Iowa and it would fully enhance these efforts to get fiberoptic in this area.

I am a mother to 3 high school students this fall. To say we use electronics and the internet is an understatement. Between my children using their laptops to complete homework, using my home computer for occasional Zoom meetings, streaming TV service, or playing video games, we have at times had to not use something device so another one can be on the internet as it is more important. Or with so many devices on our network, it slows down the speed, which can be very frustrating! The use of electronics/internet is so big and with the recent pandemic, fiberoptic has never been more important.

We have also lived in the rural area our entire life and I love it, why shouldn't we have access to the best services just like those that live in urban areas? We live at 917 Linn St. Walker, IA and we could benefit from this.

Again, I am in full support of EB in their efforts to bring fiber internet and high broadband speeds to this rural area where it is so very important. It really is in high demand!

Thank you

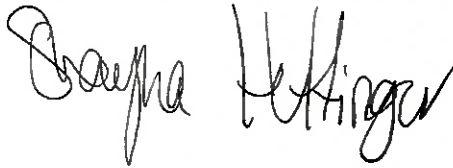
Jennifer Benesh

July 15, 2021

Mike,

Thank you for contacting me on the possibility of better internet. It was great speaking with you on it. Our current provider of phone and internet fail on a daily basis to provide us both my home and business with high-speed internet. For convenience, I have attached a copy of our current average internet speed which you can see is quite poor making it difficult to fulfill my duties as a business owner as well as streaming television when I just want a break from being a small-town business owner. If you have anymore questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Shayna Hettinger

14 Mill St, Walker, Iowa 52352

Cell – 563-920-6883

Owner of Flowers by Shayna

216 Grant St, Walker, Iowa 52352

Work – 319-448-4682

