

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;

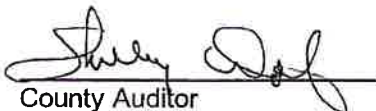
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Bremer County, Iowa, as follows:

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





CONNECTING YOU TO YOUR WORLD

PHONE 319.278.4458
FAX 319.278.7530P.O. BOX 99 • 715 MAIN
PLAINFIELD, IOWA 50888

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.



Community Memorial Hospital UnityPoint Health

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,

Dawn Everding
Chief Hospital Administrator/CFO

WAVERLY

IOWA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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,



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

From: Steph Campbell-Moeller
To: Isaiah Corbin
Subject: Internet concerns and the need for upgrades
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 3:44:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Stephanie Moeller and I live at 1858 Ivanhoe St., Waverly, IA. I am situated 2.1 miles from the city limits of Waverly, 3.1 miles from Denver and 5.6 miles from Janesville. Over the past ten years, I have voiced several and ongoing concerns regarding our lack of internet coverage. I began with our provider, CenturyLink, and have visited with local representatives regarding our concerns, all of which have gone unresolved due to lack of funding and Century Link.

Due to the lack of coverage and Century Link's unwillingness to update and fix/maintain lines (our internet does not work when we experience precipitation or high humidity for up to two weeks after an event), we are not connected to the world in a manner in which we can effectively participate: 1. We cannot communicate via internet; 2. We need to drive to town to allow our daughter to complete homework; 3. We are denied everyday conveniences/necessities due to lack of internet (home security, water filtration, and energy saving resources). We have sought out other options and Century Link is the only provider available at our address. Unfortunately, we have neighbors who have moved due to lack of internet coverage because their jobs have moved to remote working. While I was working remotely during COVID, I would have to drive to town, sit in my car and use a store's WiFi. In fact, in conversation, when people find out where I live, they say they wanted to buy a house/build in that area but there is lack of internet. This in itself is lost tax revenue at the local and state level.

A few years back, our home was broken in. We had ADT come and put in a home security system (costing \$4800) and after years of not working, and multiple service calls, it was discovered our internet would not support it. We have tried other at-home systems with no avail. I continue to live in fear of our home being broken in again and we have no means to defend our home while at work. We are also not able to run our home cost effectively/efficiently due to our archaic system. In addition, our water tested for high levels of nitrates and when we had a water filtration system, it had to be taken out as well. Service providers are in awe of our internet and never make the connection because it is not an issue anywhere else. Like all Americans and Iowans, I too would like to be afforded the opportunity to use technology to enhance and enrich our lives and feel safe again.

When I look at the map of fiber optics in my area, there is only a small band of homes that have been excluded from internet upgrades. I have reached out to local providers: Readlyn Communications, Butler-Bremer and Waverly Utilities, with no plans to upgrade our internet, even though we were told last year our service would be picked up in a grant's next cycle (this was communicated in June 2021).

Our current internet situation is unacceptable, archaic. The purpose of internet grants is to empower rural Iowa residents, when in fact, some of us feel defeated. I do not understand how a small band of homes, situated so close to small towns, can be isolated and excluded from the benefits of proper internet and distanced from our communities and world. Fiber optic ends at every intersection by our house. The only option we have been given was to pay to have the cable run ourselves and pay out of pocket. This is not a cost effective option or viable for one family.

Please consider awarding grants to the area where we live and advance taxpayers like our family into modern day communications and necessities. I appreciate your time, consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely-
Stephanie Campbell-Moeller
dvmmoes@yahoo.com
319-415-6121

March 28, 2023

To Whom it May Concern

Currently, we have a line of site internet provider. While we are thankful for the internet that we are able to access, it is not dependable. My husband works full-time from home and needs to hold meetings most days using the internet. It is disruptive to important work meetings to have slow speed internet or have it just drop.

Another reason it is critical to be connected via broadband internet is for storm coverage during dangerous storms. This type of information can save lives. Plus, we have back-up batteries for our house that integrate the internet to keep track of weather conditions and will be fully charged if they can access this information.

There are also the average household uses that are supported with faster internet speed and dependability like: school projects, communication, shopping, banking, household project research, recipes, movies, music, etc.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks,



Stephenie and Dave Steege
2394 Killdeer Ave
Waverly, IA 50677

Stephenie 319-504-5682
Dave 319-404-2058

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

Re: Notice of Funding Availability 8 (NFOA #8)

It is my understanding that Waverly Communications Utility has applied for funding through NOFA #8 to expand fiber services in rural Bremer County. I am writing in support of the application. We live south of Waverly, IA and use a wireless internet service which is not sufficient. We would benefit personally and professionally by having fiber internet to our home.

My wife and I are retired and active in the community serving on several Non-Profit Boards and Commissions. It is vital that we have digital access with other community members and have access to on-line research. It is also very important to have high speed internet service when our large family visits. We know of other friends and neighbors that have Waverly Communications Utility Internet service. The service is highly reliable and affordable. Waverly Communications Utility provides excellent customer service.

Waverly Communications Utility has a standard tier of symmetrical internet service of 250Mb for \$59.95 a month. The standard internet price has not increased in 7 years. If Waverly Communications Utility expands its fiber services to our area, our internet bandwidth will increase significantly, and our internet access cost will remain about the same. In addition, consistency and reliability will increase, which is something we struggle with today. We understand this is a big investment, but it will help us personally and so many other community members.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick McCue".

Rick McCue
2531 Garden Ave
Waverly IA 50677