Date: December 21, 2021

Subject: APPROVE TO REQUEST THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (ODOD) TO SOLICIT APPLICATIONS FROM BROADBAND PROVIDERS FOR OHIO RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM GRANTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS IN THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS AND TOWNSHIPS OF THE COUNTY

The Board of County Commissioners of Van Wert County, Ohio, met in regular session in the office of said Board on the 21st day of December, 2021, with the following members present: Mr. Stan D. Owens, Mr. Thad Lichtensteiger, and Mr. Todd D. Wolfrum.

Mr. Wolfrum moved the adoption of the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, Amended House Bill 2 of the 134th Ohio General Assembly created the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program to expand broadband service in the state and provide grants to assist with expansion of broadband service to unserved and underserved residents of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, under the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), Section 122.4050, a board of county commissioners may adopt a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to solicit applications from broadband providers for Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program grants for eligible projects in the municipal corporations and towns of the county; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects are projects to provide tier two broadband service access to residences in an unserved area or tier one area of a municipal corporation or township eligible for funding under the Broadband Expansion Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, tier one broadband service is a retail wireline or wireless broadband service capable of delivering internet access at speeds of at least ten but less than twenty-five megabits per second downstream and at least one but less than three megabits per second upstream and a tier one area is an area served by tier one broadband service but not tier two broadband service; and

WHEREAS, an unserved area is an area without access to tier one or tier two broadband service; and

WHEREAS, there are unserved or underserved areas in Van Wert County whose residents would benefit from the expansion of tier two broadband service if a broadband provider were to complete an eligible project; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that:

Section 1: The following municipal corporations and towns within Van Wert County have areas that are unserved and/or underserved by broadband service:

- Village of Elgin and surrounding areas
- Village of Ohio City and surrounding areas
- Parts or all of each of our 12 townships
- Western corridor of Van Wert County, especially along Indiana state line approximately five (5) miles wide

Also, please see attached map for unserved and/or underserved areas in red.
Section 2: Pursuant to ORC, Section 122.4050, the Board of Van Wert County Commissioners shall be the contact on behalf of Van Wert County to submit a request to the ODOD to solicit applications from broadband providers for Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program eligible projects in the areas identified in Section 1 of this Resolution.

Mr. Owens seconded the motion. The roll was called upon its adoption, and the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Owens, Yea; Mr. Lichtensteiger, Yea; and Mr. Wolfrum, Yea.

BOARD OF VAN WERT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Stan D. Owens, Chairman of the Board

Attest:

Ryanne Bollenbacher, Clerk

Thad Lichtensteiger

Todd D. Wolfrum

c: Lu Cooke, Northwest Regional Liaison, Office of the Governor of the State of Ohio Mike DeWine’s Office (LuAnne.Cooke@governor.ohio.gov)
Pete Voderberg, Chief, BroadbandOhio, ODOD (Peter.Voderberg@development.ohio.gov)
Patrick Smith, Assistant Chief, BroadbandOhio, ODOD (Patrick.Smith@development.ohio.gov)
Dhruv Shah, BroadbandOhio, ODOD (Dhruv.Shah@development.ohio.gov)
John Butler, Van Wert County IT Director
File/Broadband