



Broadwater County Broadband Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 4:00 PM

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**Board Members Present:**

**Vic Sample, Chairman; Roger Flynn, Vice-Chair; Members, Joe Gill; Adam Six**

**Broadwater County (BC) Staff Present:**

**Lindsey Richtmyer, Commissioner Liaison**

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Melinda Banks**

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The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm. All members were present including Lindsey Richtmyer; Commission Liaison.

There was no public comment and role was taken

Roger moved to approve the minutes from the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Board discussed the resignation of Warren Smeltzer due to the time constraint. Warren will be submitting a letter of resignation and the Board will need to advertise the position for 30 (thirty) days prior to recommending another Board Member to the Commission.

The Board discussed that the need for a Secretary is a decision that each Board can make for themselves. An Administrative Assistant, usually a county staff member can be appointed to take on the responsibilities of the Secretary. Melinda Banks will be the Administrative Assistant.

Dean Nelson was not able to attend this meeting and will need to be rescheduled.

The Board discussed the importance of redundancy when it comes to service and possibly the partnership between Opticom and another service provider could provide that redundancy.

Adam Six was present starting at 4:19pm

The discussion continued with the need to find a provider that would be willing to commit to growing with the county plan and with Opticom. If the Board represents the provider, they would like to be able to trust them and the accountability of that provider will not be in question.

The Board is waiting for the Speed Test App. This was already supposed to be out, but it has been delayed. Commissioner Richtmyer stated that there is no state funding to advertise for the Speed Test App. The possibility to connect with a non-profit may be a good solution to design a postcard and organize a bulk mailing. BCDC would pledge \$500 to help pay for this communication effort to get the community involved.

The Board discussed that E911 is extremely important for our communities. Commissioner Richtmyer stated that the county did receive a grant to put this in place, but our internet at the courthouse was not enough for the program. Our county had to return the monies. This is needed for collaboration with the neighboring counties. Conversations with Broadwater County Dispatch Supervisor, Kylie Walker could

give the Board specific information as to what is needed for E911. The board would like to know what kind of service the Sheriff's Office vehicles have.

The Board discussed the Public Comment Portal for the BEAD map. Roger is concerned on how they will build the polygons for our county.

The Board is still contacting different providers for information and trying to create an updated map. Hopefully the board is able to use GIS information for updates

Commissioner Richtmyer is in contact with someone at Spectrum.

The Board talked about web site/social media. Vice Chair Rodger would be willing to develop a marketing perspective with social media, postcards, and newspaper. Vice Chair Roger has been speaking with Ken Burg, the county's IT and the county is limited. Commissioner Richtmyer will discuss with legal about advertisements.

Adam Six left at 5:03pm

Vice Chair Roger Flynn will find out the number of households and the cost of the bulk mailing. Commissioner Richtmyer will be discussing more items with the county's legal department.

The Board will be attending the August Communication Advisory Commission Meeting on August 8, 2023 in Helena Montana. The board scheduled a meeting for Friday, August 11, 2023 at 8 am. The next regular meeting will be August 24, 2023 at 4 PM. Both of these meeting will be in the Flynn Building.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Melinda Banks, Assistant

8/10/23  
Date

*Approved:*

  
Vic Sample, Chair

8/10/2023  
Date