

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BROADBAND EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE
UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES June 18, 2018**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

A session of the Broadband Equity Sub-Committee was held at the County Building, 200 North Main Street, on Monday June 18, 2018.

The meeting was called to order by Barb Fuller at 2:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ben Fineman, Sub-Committee Vice-Chair, President of the Michigan Broadband Cooperative and Broadband Expert

Andy Brush, Washtenaw County IT

Michelle Deatrick, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Kyle Mazurek, Comcast and serving as Industry broadband liaison

Teresa Gillotti, Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development

Barb Fuller, Sub-Committee Chair, Sharon Township and citizen representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Zach Neal

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Karen Domino, WISD and Education/Technology Expert

Kent Martinez-Kratz, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Alicia Ping, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Conan Smith, Washtenaw County Commissioner

Scott Wooster, Chelsea Schools representing secondary education/IT expert

Theresa Herron, Manchester Schools representing secondary education

GUEST PANELISTS:

Ed Goliembiewski, Deputy Chief Clerk/Register

Meg Ivey, Deputy Court Administrator/IT Manager, Washtenaw Trial Court

Dave Halteman, Director of Emergency Services, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office

Matt Harshberger, Chief, Pittsfield Township Department of Public Safety

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

No Public Participation

E-Government Services:

Guest panelists: Ed Goliembiewski, Meg Ivey, Dave Halteman, Matt Harshberger

Matt Harshberger is the Chief of Pittsfield Township Department of Public Safety. Matt pointed out that the difference between 15 years ago and today is like night and day. He noted that Pittsfield Township

Government laid fiber to connect their government buildings, improve response times and enhance service to residents. Pittsfield Township's web site is intentionally designed to promote transparency and convenience. He noted that the Township strives to maximize features such as safety alerts, requests for service, crime mapping, awareness of online scams, and community policing. Matt pointed out that an extensive email list is maintained by the Township that includes residents, Home Owner Associations and other interested stakeholders. The Township Board recently approved funding for Phase III of their fiber build out to further improve the services and online experiences for their residents. He acknowledged that not everybody has the same access to the internet and that equity is a concern.

Dave Halteman is the Director of Emergency Services for Washtenaw County. One way Dave's department utilizes technology is with Nixle. Nixle enables his department to send alerts to local residents (who have voluntarily signed up) via phone, email and web. He stated that the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has two options for Broadband. They have the County Infrastructure as well as Comcast as a backup. A hurdle for Emergency Services is that "Emergency Preparedness" messages go out through the EOC website. People without access to the website do not see them. . Dave mentioned that there are a lot of new ideas of what will be done in the future with Emergency Services. One of those ideas is Next Gen 911 where citizens will be able to text in additional information about a current emergency situation.

Ed Goliembiewski is the Deputy Chief Clerk/Register for Washtenaw County. People utilize the services of the clerk's office without them realizing it. People interact with the Clerk's office when they are born, when they marry, when they buy a house and eventually when they die. Nearly all of Washtenaw County's land records have been digitized with the original documents having been safely archived and stored. Digitized records are accessible and searchable remotely. Certified copies of records are available for a fee and can be ordered online. Today, 50% of the filings handled by the Clerk's office are completed online. The reduction in foot traffic has resulted in cost savings because fewer employees are needed and less paper is involved. The transition from in-person to online transactions saves time and the expense of travel. Ensuring the security of these documents and records presents new challenges in this era of identity theft and nefarious alteration of information. While digitization and online services have improved convenience for some, Ed acknowledged that there are still customers that have to come into the office because they do not have online access. In addition to vital records, elections require reliable internet access. Election results are now transmitted wirelessly when the polls close

Meg Ivey is the Deputy Court Administrator/IT Manager at Washtenaw County Trial Court. The Trial Court began digitizing records the last couple of years. People who cannot access the internet can be helped over the phone. In 2018, the Court instituted a new web site, a new system for jury selection, an online payment system that eliminates the disruption of having to make in person visits to the Court and public kiosks where citizens can submit required documents via e-filing. Another advantage is that warrants can be expedited. With more online transactions and less foot traffic, the Court is less congested and can be made more secure. Hearings and visitations can be conducted via Polycom or Skype rather than visitors having to come to the lobby of the jail. Expert testimony from anywhere in the world is also possible. While it is regrettable that there is broadband inequity, Meg pointed out that technology continues to evolve regardless and we shouldn't attempt to hold back progress until everyone catches up – we should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Andy Brush posed the question of, “How do we get everyone connected?” Suggestions included; creating publicly accessible “connection spaces” and public kiosks for multiple purposes.

NEW BUSINESS

July 16, 2018 – Barb Fuller, Lead Sub-Cmte Member

Local Broadband Initiatives

Barb: Invite representatives from communities actively engaged in efforts to achieve broadband equity; Ann Arbor Twp; Sharon Twp; Manchester Twp, Webster Twp, Dexter Twp and Lyndon Twp.

August 20, 2018 – Barb Fuller, Lead Sub-Cmte Member

Public Policy Impacting Broadband Access & Equity

Barb: Invite State Representative Donna Lasinski; Larry Merrill, Michigan Townships Association; Kirk Profit, Lobbyist; Lisa Dedden-Cooper, AARP Manager of Advocacy

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: NOTE LOCATION

Monday, July 16, 2018, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in Conference Room 2010, at the Washtenaw County Western Service Center, 705 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103