

FARIBAULT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
MAY 20, 2021

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met in special session via teleconference at the Courthouse in the City of Blue Earth at 6:30 p.m. on May 20, 2021. The following members were present: Bruce Anderson, Bill Groskreutz, Tom Loveall, John Roper, and Greg Young Commissioners. Commissioner Tom Loveall met via video. County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Darren Esser and EDA Director Annie Nichols were present. Chief Deputy/Accountant Jessica Blair and Bevcomm CEO Bill Eckles met via video.

The special meeting regarding an application for a Community Development Block Grant for broadband development was called to order by Chair Roper.

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EDA Director Annie Nichols discussed the reason for the hearing noting the grant project now includes the cities of Brice lyn, Frost, Delevan, and Elmore. The City of Easton was originally included in project plans but after further research, did not meet the income level threshold of the grant requirements.

Bevcomm CEO Bill Eckles discussed planned project stating that with the grant, Easton would most likely be added during the year following this grant project's construction. Much sooner than if the grant is not awarded. Also stated the total project cost is approximately \$3 million, and Bevcomm will fund between 15 and 20% of the total. If the grant is awarded, he expected the infrastructure would be built out next year and would be completed within the 30-month timeframe, as required by the grant.

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Nichols discussed the Community and Economic Development Associates' (CEDA) experience administering Federal grants and explained that there were no known historical properties that would be disrupted, but this would be further identified in the Environmental Review. If any were found a solution would be determined.

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Chair Roper called for public comment. No member of the public appeared to make comment.

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Groskreutz/Young motion carried unanimously to approve Resolution 21-CB-45 approving application for Community Development Block Grant for broadband development. Commissioners Anderson, Groskreutz, Loveall, Roper and Young voted yes.

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Faribault County act as the legal sponsor for the project in the application for Community Development Block Grant for broadband development to be submitted on May 28, 2021 and that Faribault County Board Chair and Faribault County Board Vice Chair

are hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for funding of this project on behalf of Faribault County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Faribault County has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate construction, operation, maintenance and replacement of the proposed project for its design life.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Faribault County has not violated any Federal, State or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon approval of its application by the State, Faribault County may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the approved project, and that Faribault County certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in all contract agreements.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Faribault County Board Chair and Faribault County Board Vice Chair, or their successors in office, are hereby authorized to execute such agreements, and amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of Faribault County.

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Young/Anderson motion carried unanimously certifying no conflicts exist on the Board of Faribault County Commissioners.

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Anderson/Young motion carried unanimously to adjourn the special meeting.

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John Roper, Chair

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Darren Esser, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator