

## **Rural Broadband Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
Time: 6:30 pm  
Location: Electronic meeting live streamed at:  
<https://video.isilive.ca/tecumseh/live.html>.

Present: Councillor, Brian Houston  
Councillor, Tania Jobin  
Mayor Gary McNamara  
Member Nicole Colenutt  
Member, Aldo DiNardo  
Member Darrin Drouillard  
Member Dan Grosu

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer, Margaret Misek-Evans  
Director Technology & Client Services, Shaun Fuerth  
Manager Committee & Community Services, Christina Hebert

#### **A. Roll Call**

#### **B. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

#### **C. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There is no pecuniary interest declared by a Member.

#### **D. Delegations**

Dominic Blago, Business Development Specialist and Jacqueline Mote, Account Manager, Graybar Canada

Ms. Jacqueline Mote, Account Manager explains Graybar Canada, a national company with locations across Canada, is a local distributor of fiber optic cable. Graybar Canada is able to provide their expertise on how other municipalities have provided high speed broadband.

Mr. Dominic Blago advises they are various options should the Town wish retain ownership of own network or lease out and outlines the general process for proceeding once determine the type of network.

In response to an inquiry, Mr. Blago clarifies approximate costs to develop the network. He advises an Engineering Plan generally includes finding the bandwidth to tap into, running the main trunk and offshoots and so forth to build and design a network.

Graybar Canada will research Canadian case studies where communities have done the ground work for a rural area and successfully sold/leased back to vendors, together with case studies related to broadband over power lines. The Chief Administrative Officer acknowledged Bluewater Power developed a network to service certain parts of Sarnia, however the City of Sarnia did not own the network.

Mr. Blago and Ms. Mote vacate the meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Motion: RBAC - 10/21**

Moved By Dan Grosu

Seconded By Tania Jobin

**That** representatives from Graybar Canada be permitted to address the Committee with respect to the services offered by Graybar Canada as it relates to providing high speed broadband access to underserved areas of the municipality.

Carried

**E. Communications**

1. Rural Broadband Advisory Committee Minutes

September 22, 2021

2. Town of Essex dated September 21, 2021

Re: Rural Broadband Highspeed Internet Access

3. Ministry of Infrastructure dated December 1, 2021

Re: Building Broadband Faster Act Guideline and Regulations

The Members discuss the Ontario government's recent efforts to help bring high speed internet access to every community by the end of 2025, including launching a Request for Proposals (RFP) as part of a new competitive bidding process and the Building Broadband Faster Act Guideline and Regulation.

The Mayor apprises of the current project in Stoney Point and the significant associated costs related to broadband expansion, particularly in rural areas. He explains the proposed allocation of funding and RFP process under the Province's initiative.

It is suggested that Barry Fields, Executive Director of Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc. (SWIFT) be extended an invitation to a future meeting to offer his perspective on broadband expansion.

The importance of focusing on how broadband high speed internet is being delivered and the challenges associated with the proposed allocation of government funding as part the Ontario government's next

steps was identified. The Members support drafting a letter regarding the procurement process concerns.

**Motion: RBAC - 12/21**

Moved By Dan Grosu

Seconded By Tania Jobin

**That** the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee recommend Tecumseh Council consider sending a letter and resolution in support of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and SWIFT advice that Infrastructure Ontario pause the procurement process until recommendations have been addressed.

4. CIRA email dated November 3, 2021

Re: Speedtest Update as of October 31

**Motion: RBAC - 11/21**

Moved By Tania Jobin

Seconded By Dan Grosu

**That** Communications 1 through 4 as listed on the December 8, 2021 Rural Broadband Advisory Committee Agenda, **be received**.

Carried

**F. Reports**

None.

**G. Unfinished Business**

1. December 8, 2021

The Director Technology & Client Services provides an update on the following Unfinished Business matters:

Speed Test

- Approximately 1200 tests were conducted throughout the municipality and notes a few anomalies, including tests that were recorded under the center of one postal code
- Provides a map displaying serviced areas of the municipality and underserved areas with a breakdown of structures (commercial, institutional, recreational and residential building and places of worship) within the underserved areas

Hydro One Tower Site

- Information received today regarding options for leasing the tower space for continued discussions and more information to follow

- As previously discussed, would have an initial investment of design, structurally sound, wind loading etc.

#### SWIFT Developments

- In addition to earlier discussion, will continue to use the supportable data to help reduce the barriers ISPs have with getting into underserved areas.
- Discussion ensues regarding the Provincial announcement's bid for opportunities to provide high-speed internet access to remaining underserved and unserved communities and the disbursement of funding allocation

#### Short / Long Term Action Plan

- Informal action plan noted in Unfinished Business and will continue to develop

#### ISP Contact

- Conversations are underway with local ISPs and will continue to keep the dialogue going and show tangible projects are available to pursue

#### Interim Report

- Target an interim report to Council for Q1 of 2022 identifying the Committee's activities to-date

#### Starlink Test

- Connecting Windsor - Essex has ordered equipment with delivery intended for mid-2022; potential for testing within municipality once equipment is received

#### Red Oak Technologies

- Consulting firm that assists with projects on the design side, such as engineering services and solutions, compare supply vs demand, stakeholder engagement, etc. with potential for future discussions and engaging their services

### **H. New Business**

None.

### **I. Next Meeting**

The next Rural Broadband Advisory Committee meeting will be held electronically on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

**J. Adjournment**

**Motion: RBAC - 13/21**

Moved By Dan Grosu

Seconded By Tania Jobin

**That** there being no further business, the Wednesday, December 8, 2021 meeting of the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee **be adjourned** at 8:08 pm.

Carried

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Councillor Brian Houston, Chair

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Councillor Tania Jobin, Vice-Chair