



CLERK

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TECHNOLOGY/INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 27, 2021
9:30 a.m.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Margaret Batzer (Zoom, City of Manistee); Eric Gustad (Zoom, Filer Township)

Members Absent: Richard Schmidt

Others Present: Lisa Sagala, Controller/Administrator; Gordon McLellan, IT Contractor; Bruce Schimke, Maintenance Supervisor; Glenn Zaring, Connect Manistee; Julie Griffiths, HR Generalist; Susan Zielinski, Finance Officer; Julie Schmeling, Administrative Assistant; Lindsey Marquardt, Chief Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to Order at 9:30 a.m. by Margaret Batzer.

NOTE – Items requiring Board Action are indicated in BOLD

The County Board and its Committees are operating remotely and electronically by Zoom under the Manistee County Board of Commissioners Resolution #2020-17, which declared a Local State of Emergency through December 31, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

TECHNOLOGY RELATED GRANT IDEAS

Gordon McLellan presented American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant technology ideas. (Appendix A) Small internal projects were discussed for various projects within the Courthouse and Government Center. These projects, listed in the order in which Mr. McLellan would like them done, include fiber optic updates, security camera updates and server upgrades.

Larger projects would include fiber optic installation between the Courthouse, Township and Village government buildings. This could create a framework for private investment to provide wireless broadband access to underserved areas of the County. Discussion followed regarding a feasibility study for broadband service countywide. Glenn Zaring with Connect Manistee will approach entities that may be interested to see if they can contribute financially with some of their ARPA Grant money toward the cost of a study.

2021-22 IT PROJECTS

Gordon McLellan presented upcoming IT projects for fiscal year 2021-22. The network storage at the Sheriff's Office and Courthouse data centers needs to be replaced at an approximate cost of \$70,000 to \$120,000. The AS/400 Court server needs to be replaced. The approximate cost is \$65,000. This server could possibly be a lease to own over a 4-to-5-year period. The costs associated with the server are shared with Benzie County. Twenty-five desktop computers are up for replacement on the current computer rotation schedule and would cost approximately \$35,000. Fiscal year 2021-22 IT projects could also include any possible ARPA grant projects previously discussed.

OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

The meeting was adjourned at the Call of the Chair at 10:30 a.m.

Eric Gustad

Absent

Richard Schmidt, Chairperson

Margaret Batzer

APPENDIX A

ARPA Grant Ideas

Small stuff:

1. Fiber optic between 415 3rd and 395 3rd – good investment if we plan to continue working from that building, estimate \$30k
2. Fiber optic and electric between Courthouse and “garbage shed”, so we can install cameras on the shed providing better parking lot security, estimate \$20k
3. Replace fiber optic in Courthouse – existing fiber is 20+ years old and cannot be upgraded, estimate \$60k
4. Additional security cameras for Courthouse building, more coverage for parking lot, alleyway, west and north sides of building, estimate \$50k
5. Fiber between Sheriff and County Medical Care building, allowing them access to fiber optic Internet, estimate \$20k
6. Next generation server and storage infrastructure for Courthouse and Sheriff, estimate \$300k
7. Fiber between Courthouse and Sheriff, improving access for Courts as well as more reliable backups for all departments, reducing annual expense versus leasing connectivity, estimate \$300-500k

Big project:

1. Fiber between Courthouse and Township and Village government buildings.
 - a. Creates a framework for private investment to provide wireless broadband access to underserved areas of the County. Leasing capacity on our network to Internet providers would be a revenue stream for the County.
 - b. Increase election efficiency and security, allowing secure high-speed connection directly to Clerk’s office to deliver voting data.
 - c. County could provide “free wifi” around these buildings for students doing home learning and taking online college classes.
 - d. County library could build their own fiber to these government centers and connect back to the main branch.
 - e. Central Dispatch 911 could use a portion of the fiber to connect to their radio towers, eliminating the significant reoccurring costs associated with buying connectivity from Verizon and AT&T.
 - f. Cost estimate is in the millions, probably more than the single grant but there are other grants available for this kind of project. A portion of the initial grant could cover consulting and engineering on the project, giving us the information needed to pursue additional grant opportunities for broadband development.

Thanks,
Gordon