

The Allen County Board of Commissioners met in special session at 1:00 p.m. with Chairman Bruce Symes, Commissioner Jerry Daniels, Commissioner David Lee, and Jill Allen, Allen County Deputy Clerk.

Trevor Hoag, Iola Register, Nick Reynolds, Humboldt Union, Terry Call, Allen County EMS Financial Director, Mitchell Garner, Allen County Public Works Director, Chelsie Angleton, 911 Director, Harry Lee, Zoning Chairman, Bryan Murphy, Allen County Sheriff, and Jill Allen, Allen County Deputy Clerk,

Chairman Symes led the flag salute.

Commissioner Lee said LaHarpe Telephone is seeking a grant to put fiber to small communities, but a government entity needs to sponsor it. He explained 5G.

Harry explained the grant is available, it must be submitted by a government entity. Harry handed out a map. It shows LaHarpe's fiber backbone. With the grant, he would leverage that backbone to put fiber in other areas. He suggested making all these towers in the county available to Allen County for emergency coverage. He said with this concept the Allen County Emergency Services would be well covered. Commissioner Lee asked the sponsor's responsibility. Harry stated the county would be a pass-through; submit grant, accept monies, but then turn monies over to LaHarpe Telephone to pay the bills associated with this. The grant is a Federal one. Harry said he has a grant writer. The grant has to be submitted by August 17, 2021. Towers for emergency communications would be up and going as soon as the fiber is there for the four towers that already exist. Once the grant is awarded, they have a year to complete it. Harry is thinking September 2022 all would be done. The towers are not included in the year timeline, just the fiber. Commissioner Daniels stated he does not see a down side to this. Harry said someone from the county would have to be able to collect data and answer questions. Sheriff Murphy discussed the proposals for the towers. Chairman Symes asked about the county policy in treating all businesses equal. So, if we participate, we're helping LaHarpe Telephone, solving a problem in the county pertaining to fiber, etc. Commissioner Daniels asked can any other company apply for this grant? Harry needs a decision today.

Harry and Sheriff Murphy reviewed the map of tower locations. Sheriff Murphy explained his concerns about losing a tower, then how far out can they communicate. The RF study was discussed. Mitch also talked about the dead areas.

Commissioner Daniels stepped out to call for legal counsel.

Jacob Manbeck, Legal Counsel in the absence of County Counselor Robert Johnson, joined the meeting

Chairman Symes explained to Jacob the purpose of the special meeting. If we serve as a pass though for this private business, will that get us in any kind of issue if any other private business wants the same.

Commissioner Daniels moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for Attorney Client Privilege, Commissioner Lee seconded, motion passed 3-0-0. The time is now 1:40 p.m. Those present will be Commissioners Harry Lee, Sheriff Murphy, Chelsie Angleton, Mitch Garner and Jacob Manbeck. Commissioners reconvened at 1:55 p.m. No action taken.

Eric Vogel, KwiKom joined the meeting. Eric explained KwiKom's business. He said they are willing to participate in the fiber expansion. Chairman Symes explained there will not be a cost to the county for being a pass through for grant, expanding internet coverage

to rural areas. If KwiKom wishes to pursue the grant, however, the timeframe is short. Commissioner Daniels said the county can't apply for the grant, as suggested by Eric. There's just not enough time. LaHarpe Telephone is applying for said grant. Eric said KwiKom is open to applying for grants. Chairman Symes asked Eric if he was going to formally make a request, then we'd go through the same process. However, the timeframe is probably too short. Chairman Symes asked Eric of his intentions due to the time sensitivity of the grant. Eric asked if he can step out to make a phone call. Commissioner agreed.

Jacob Manbeck returned to the meeting.

Eric stated that KwiKom did submit a grant a couple weeks ago. He said that they are working with the State of Kansas, Department of Broadband Development as their pass through. Chairman Symes explained how the bid process works for the county.

Commissioner Daniels wished KwiKom success with their grant app. He made a motion to approve Allen County be sponsor of the grant for LaHarpe Telephone, Chairman Symes seconded, motion passed 2-0-0, Commissioner Lee abstained.

Commissioners approved the following documents:

- a) Clerk's Vouchers – \$377,668.46

With no further business to come before the board, Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn, Commissioner Daniels seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m. until Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Assembly's Room of the courthouse.

Bruce Symes, Chairperson

Jerry Daniels, Commissioner

Jill Allen, Allen County Deputy Clerk

David E. Lee, Commissioner