

Dexter Township Resolution # 21-618

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE COUNTYWIDE BROADBAND ACCESS.

WHEREAS, access to high-speed broadband service is critical to the township's mission of supporting the health, safety, well-being, quality of life and productivity for all residents, educational pursuits, not-for-profits, medical services, and businesses throughout the township; and

WHEREAS, access to high-speed broadband for many residents and businesses in the township is unavailable to prohibitively expensive: and

WHEREAS, since March of 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic has proven the absolute necessity of digital connectivity: and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force has taken measures to achieve countywide high-speed broadband coverage: through grant opportunities nearly 66% of the rural county will be digitally connected to high-speed internet through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (FDOF) program: and

WHEREAS, approximately 3,700 homes, countywide, will remain unserved after FDOF, a challenge the Broadband Talk Force is addressing through the exploration of additional grant and public/private partnership opportunities: and WHEREAS, President Biden's American Rescue Plan stimulus funding specifically identifies the construction of high-speed broadband infrastructure as an encouraged use of the funds: and

WHEREAS, allocation of ARP funding to incentivize a public/private partnership could close the digital divide that exists in Washtenaw County and bring high-speed internet access to 100% of county residents, regardless of their address, making Washtenaw the first county in the State of Michigan to do so:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Dexter Township Board of Trustees, encourages the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to allocate ARP funding to a high-speed broadband public/private partnership that serves to connect every home and business in Washtenaw County, thus achieving true high-speed broadband equity and is conducive to the development and implementation of a robust, affordable and sustainable high-speed broadband service for Dexter Township;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Dexter Township continues to support the efforts of the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force in its mission to bring affordable high-speed broadband to Dexter Township.

Resolution offered by: Karen Nolte

Resolution seconded by: Karen Sikkenga

Roll call vote:

Yeas: Ratkovich, Stamboulellis, Metz, Drolett, Nolte, Sanders, Sikkenga

Nays: None

Abstain: None

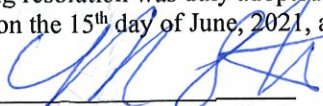
Absent: None

Tally Y = 7; N = 0; Abstain = 0; Absent = 0

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, being the duly elected and acting Clerk of the Township of Dexter hereby certifies that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Dexter Township Board at which a quorum was present on the 15th day of June, 2021, and that the members voted thereon as hereinbefore set forth.



Michelle Stambouellis, Clerk