



JOINT BROADBAND PROJECT COMMITTEE

October 13th, 2009

MINUTES

Present Cllr George Hodgkinson
 Cllr Treena Lemay
 Cllr Joe Park

 John Baird, CAO/Clerk
 Lynn Beatty, Economic Development Officer
 Lauree Armstrong, Planner

 Bruce Parker, Project Oversight
 Keke Mgbemena, Project Coordinator

 Dan Scissons, Treasurer/Deputy CAO

Regrets Cllr Dennis Gauthier
 Mitch Stillman, CAO/Clerk

Also Attended Mayor Jack Wilson

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Joint Broadband Committee.

1. Approval of Minutes of September 15th, 2009

The minutes of the September 15th, 2009 meeting were discussed. .

JBC-10-008 Moved by Cllr Lemay, seconded by Cllr Park
 That the minutes of the September 15th, 2009 meeting be approved as presented.
CARRIED

2. Business Arising

A. OMAFRA Funding Update

CAO Baird indicated that there has still been no word from OMAFRA, nor has the signed funding agreement been returned to the municipality.

B. Petawawa Joint Agreement

Dan Scissons reported on behalf of CAO Stillman. Petawawa Council has agreed to sign a formal agreement between the two municipalities regarding the cost sharing on the Broadband Project.

C. Project Oversight

Mr. Parker gave an update on the project as it now stands. He advised that the slow process with respect to OMAFRA is not unusual. Mr. Parker indicated to expect slow response and frustrations dealing with OMAFRA as they are still working on the process for Intake #1.

3. Project Coordinator

The chair of the selection committee, Cllr Lemay, outlined the process that has been undertaken regarding the Project Coordinator selection process.

Cllr Lemay introduced Keke Patricia Mgbemena to the committee as the successful candidate in the selection of the Project Coordinator. Cllr Lemay gave the committee a brief outline of Keke's background and the experience that she brings to the position. Cllr Lemay then invited Keke to say a few words, which she did.

JBC-10-009 Moved by Cllr Lemay, seconded by Cllr Park
That Mayor Wilson and CAO Baird be authorized to sign the Employment
Agreement with Keke Mgbemena.

CARRIED

4. Bell Aliant Update

Mr. Parker advised that Simon Chapelle is no longer with Bell Aliant. Jason St Pierre has assumed direct management of the Laurentian Valley/Petawawa project and will be our main point of contact with the organization.

Committee discussed the need for a map clearly outlining the service that resident could expect to get from the project. Generally speaking, Petawawa will be served primarily by DSL with some wireless. Laurentian Valley will primarily be the reverse.

Mr. Parker also indicated that with the various projects currently underway in Renfrew County there will likely be some spin-off and "bleeding" around the periphery of the municipalities. People on the periphery of a municipality who might not normally get broadband, may by virtue of the INUSHUK service be able to access the service.

5. New Business

A. Digital Symposium

Cllr Lemay raised some concern about the various projects that are on the go right now, and in particular the Eastern Warden's project. Cllr Lemay felt that the Project Coordinator should contact Eastern Warden's and other projects in an effort to try and coordinate the messages being sent out. Cllr Lemay is concerned that messages will get lost as all the projects gear up, and residents of the communities will experience frustration and confusion.

Mr. Parker confirmed that there is a value in trying to coordinate messages as much as possible. Certainly, each party should be aware of the actions being undertaken by the other. There will be significantly more of this as time goes by, and all projects ramp up to full speed. Largely it identifies the need to have messages clearly identified as to who they are from. Mr. Parker pointed to the Greater Madawaska project and the new logo that they are using to uniquely identify their messages. Mr. Parker suggested that the LV/Pet project may want to develop something similar.

B. Geek Squad

Cllr Lemay expressed concerns regarding the proposed "Geek Squad" in the outreach program. Cllr Lemay's concerns relate to issues of liability with respect to students on the squad entering a home. She suggested that the group might look at securing the services of the Computer studies class at Algonquin College as a more appropriate source of people to develop the "geek Squad".

C. Greater Madawaska Showcase

Mr. Parker gave a brief outline of the Greater Madawaska Showcase Project that will be happening on October 15th and 16th in Calabogie. He explained the reasons for the exhibition, and outlined some plans that were being implemented.

Mr. Parker invited those who could make it to come to Calabogie at some point to experience the showcase and perhaps get ideas for the LV/Pet initiatives.

6. Next Meeting

The chairman advised that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday November 10th, 2009 at 9:30 AM in the Laurentian Valley Municipal Office.

7. Adjournment

JBC-10-010 Moved by Cllr Park, seconded by Cllr Lemay
That the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 AM.
CARRIED

The chairman thanked everyone for their participation.

George Hodgkinson, Chairman

John Baird, CAO/Clerk