

Resolution 1-2017

Town of Farmington, La Crosse County, Wisconsin

Supporting Expansion of High Speed Internet in the Town of Farmington

WHEREAS, closing the Digital Divide is vital to the economic prosperity, educational growth and quality of life for residents of the Town of Farmington; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Farmington believes that in order to compete in today's digital world that high-speed Internet access – referred to generically as “broadband” which includes both wireline and wireless technologies – is an essential 21st Century infrastructure that will enhance economic competitiveness, improve productivity and access to education, decrease impacts on the environment and increase economic opportunities for our residents; and

WHEREAS, many Town of Farmington residents and businesses currently are hampered by the lack of access to affordable and reliable broadband services that meet or exceed the federal broadband standard of 25/3 Mbps; in fact, some of our more rural areas do not have any access to wireline and/or wireless and in some cases areas that are reported to have wireline internet do not; and

WHEREAS, broadband access is a multi-faceted economic development engine; consumer access drives entrepreneurship, increases education and healthcare access, contributes to environmental conservation, and equalizes economic opportunities between urban and rural areas; institutional access to high-speed broadband attracts new business and capital investment, increases innovation and creates more jobs; and

WHEREAS, broadband technologies can be used to update and increase effectiveness of emergency response, law enforcement, and other public security and safety services, to better meet the needs of our first responders and residents in times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, by harnessing the increased productivity derived from expanding broadband throughout the Town of Farmington we promote online access to government, its services and functions; enable distance learning and access to online textbooks; and provide increased quality of life for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Farmington has determined that a plan for and to facilitate deployment of Broadband across the Town, especially in rural parts of the Town without current access, as critical infrastructure, is comparable with other essential infrastructure such as electricity, telephone, and transportation, which are needed for economic development; and

WHEREAS, technologies like mobile cellular data are not a viable substitute for access to high-speed broadband to the home; and

WHEREAS, there is significant Federal funding available for expansion of high speed broadband and that access to such funding requires a policy of support and plan of research and implementation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Farmington hereby establishes a policy to develop a comprehensive Broadband strategy that covers the current and future needs of its residents, including those in rural areas, and major sectors within the Town: Agriculture, Business, Education, Government, Healthcare, Public Safety and Utilities; and, be it further

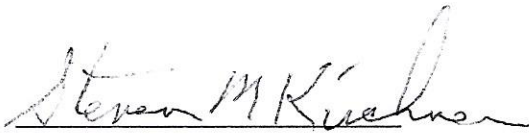
RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Farmington hereby requests that La Crosse County, the Wisconsin Legislature and the Wisconsin Governor seriously support and fund efforts to allow rural Wisconsinites to experience equal opportunities and the same benefits of high-speed broadband to the home as urban Wisconsinites currently experience.

Adopted this 3rd day of January, 2017

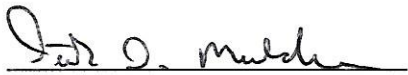
3 Yes 0 No



Chairman



East Supervisor



West Supervisor



Clerk