

**MINUTES**  
**MIFFLIN COUNTY INTERNET SUMMIT**  
**MARCH 29, 2017**  
**MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MEETING ROOM B – 3:30 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**MEMBERS:**

Clint Aurand, Armagh Township  
John Rhone, Wayne Township

**OTHERS:**

Lori Comp, Senator Corman's Office  
Chastity Fultz, Mifflin County Planning and Development  
Bill Gomes, Mifflin County Planning and Development  
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County Planning  
Scott Kramer, SEDA-COG  
Rhonda Moore, Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce

Call to Order: Bill Gomes called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

Approval of Minutes: No motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2017 meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

Business Survey: The business survey will be emailed March 30<sup>th</sup> with a deadline for completion of April 14<sup>th</sup>. Bill prepared a write-up for the Sentinel to advertise this launch. An issue was also raised that multiple email addresses for the same business may receive the survey resulting in duplicate responses. The survey mechanism should be able to extract duplicates. The survey responses may change the residential survey, which we are hopeful to have sent in May.

Atlantic Broadband Map: Atlantic Broadband shared a map that shows the areas they will cover with high speed internet. They do not want to publicize this information until they make a formal announcement. Bill did ask Fran Bradley from Atlantic Broadband to recognize the Internet Advisory Committee in their announcement.

Verizon Follow-up: Verizon is exiting as a direct email provider. Bill previously shared information from Mike Tate regarding the FAQs for this process. Doug Smith of Verizon also shared information on this process. If you wish to keep your Verizon address, it can be accessed through AOL. If you do nothing, you lose your email.

Verizon has seen problems with DSL congestion in the area, but has not stated how they will address the issues.

Other Business: Scott Kramer stated that Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grants for 2017-2018 are underway. A two-page summary is due by the end of May for anyone considering applying for the program. It is a 50/50 grant match requirement. In-kind services are limited and it has to be new work

performed. The committee could possibly recommend that the County apply for a grant to create a master plan or feasibility study and the survey could help contribute to that effort. If the residential survey was postponed, it could be used as an in-kind match. South Hills is willing to provide an intern, but they want the intern to work on more than just this project.

ARC normally likes to fund implementation programs rather than feasibility studies, but a Power Grant through ARC was recently awarded \$100,000 for a feasibility study to Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission. Bill suggested partnering with adjoining counties, similar to the natural gas cooperative strategy. Scott Kramer mentioned that Union, Snyder, Cumberland and Montour Counties are currently looking at this as a regional issue. Most people do not understand there is a problem with internet service. The issue of Penn State closing its Lewistown Campus drove Mifflin County to look into the problem. Brad Kerstetter suggested the problem could be addressed regionally. SEDA—COG might be able to coordinate with the 11 counties in its region. It could take years to get all counties involved, but could be broken into smaller sections. SEDA-COG may be the applicant for an ARC grant to develop a feasibility study and master plan. If this route is chosen, the application would have to wait til next year. Bill questioned if Juniata, Mifflin and Centre Counties would be willing to join together for the application now and provide the match requirement. The match would not be required until the end of the year. Bill will contact Bob Jacobs of Centre County and Brad Kerstetter will talk to the Juniata County Commissioners. It was also suggested to have individual townships contribute as well.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.