

MINUTES
MIFFLIN COUNTY INTERNET SUMMIT
APRIL 19, 2017
MIFFLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, MEETING ROOM B – 3:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS:

Nathan Smith, Fame/Fox Pro
Craig Bubbs, MABL

OTHERS:

Lori Comp, Senator Corman's Office
Stacey Herman, Mifflin County Planning and Development
Bill Gomes, Mifflin County Planning and Development
Brad Kerstetter, Juniata County Planning
Scott Kramer, SEDA-COG (conference call)

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 approval of last meetings minutes. No questions regarding minutes from last meeting.

Business Survey: The business survey was emailed March 29th, with an April 14th deadline. On the 13th only 34 responses had been received. Another notice was sent out on the 13th. Currently only 57 responses out of 800+ has been received, which is really poor. There is concern that the email is being sent to spam, but since it came from the chamber it should not have been. Residential survey is going to become even more critical. The 2nd business survey sent out has a May 1st deadline. We need to have the newspaper put something in again about this.

Residential Survey: Bill provided a copy of the residential survey and asked for all to look it over and bring back any corrections or comments to the next meeting in May.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Application and Center for Rural PA: The Center for Rural PA grant program was briefly discussed. Unfortunately, the applicant must be a university to make it work. Walt said even though he was going to another job he would check with Penn State, but he did not have anyone in mind at this point. Bill thought IUP may have an interest and reached out to a contact there, but has not heard anything from them. Bill has also outreached to other Planning Directors but is not getting anywhere. The Center wants to do a statewide project.

For the ARC application, Scott put a rough draft together and Bill sent it to a company Jim Baker recommended called Design Nine. They made some corrections and Scott is satisfied with those corrections. Andrew Cohill at Design Nine said the cost for the county would be \$40,000. If multiple counties, it could be around \$60,000. We hope to get other counties to join. Juniata County seems to be interested and hopefully Centre County will join also. Bill is still trying to get Centre County on board. Design Nine may do their own survey and cross reference our survey. We are using Design Nine or a

company like that to design a strategy to move forward. Andrew said every time a plan like this has been put together it has motivated the carriers to do more.

Barb Hair from South Hills will give us an intern if we can find work other than the survey starting June 1st.

We are working on trying to do a random sample by townships so we don't get scattered results.

Scott believes that \$60,000 may be a low estimate. Northwest region cost was \$100,000 for multiple counties. We should get each county to put \$10,000 into the project by end of this year or beginning of next year. Clint Aurand had suggested possibly outreaching to each municipality to put in \$500. Derry Township has expressed interest, but the Atlantic Broadband enhancement will impact Derry and they may be satisfied.

Scott suggested to move this along and will go over the proposal with Betsy Lockwood and get back to Bill for review.

Verizon Follow-up: Verizon email change- over was discussed and the required change for customers.

Craig Bubbs discussed whether or not conduit would be feasible to this area. Cost in rural areas would be large to bury and not enough benefit. Without an actionable strategy on how we would use it, would be pointless.

Nittany Media would be our best partner to get more done because they are local. They believe in supporting the area, but it has to make sense financially for them.

Other Business:

Scott will not be at next meeting and will get the ARC application back to us before next meeting.

Nathan asked if there was a rep in our group from Century Link? No. The members felt we should try to get one.

Another question was whether Doug Smith was a rep for Verizon Communications or Verizon Wireless? The group was not sure.

Scott offered to send google earth layer files to Nathan who requested them.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.