

**Whitewater Township Board
Minutes of Special Meeting held September 28, 2020**

Call to Order

Supervisor Popp called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Whitewater Township Hall, 5777 Vinton Road, Williamsburg, Michigan.

Roll Call of Board Members

Board Members present: Treasurer Benak, Clerk Goss, Trustee Hubbell, Popp
Board Members absent: Trustee Lawson
Others present: Michael Gaylord, Bruce Standfest

Set/Adjust Meeting Agenda

There were no adjustments.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

Public Comment

None

Agenda Items as Listed in Special Meeting Notice**Reviewing, Approving or Denying COLI Inc. dba 186networks METRO Act Permit Application**

Motion by Popp to approve as submitted the METRO Act permit application and bilateral permit as presented here in the packet; second by Benak.

Michael Gaylord and Bruce Standfest are present.

Most infrastructure was not installed in the public right of way. Cherryland's infrastructure is on private property. So far, they have not installed anything in the public right of way.

This is the first time they have done a METRO permit.

Standfest said they can submit engineered drawings.

Popp said what he has discussed with COLI is that they would provide as-builts.

They have not started any of it.

They would have filed it sooner, but they did not realize they had to have the METRO Act until the road commission told them about it.

They will own everything in the right of way, from Samels Farm north.

Goss listed all of the required insurances.

Standfest said they can have that this afternoon.

Fiber North is their contractor. They do the drilling and plowing. COLI does the last mile, meaning to the houses from the road right of way.

Gaylord described the size of conduit and other details of the fiber to be installed.

Benak asked how did you decide where to go.

Gaylord said people on the road asked for it. They were already on Hoiles and Baggs. They got a lot of people on Skegemog asking for it and they are helping us out getting in there. No banks will loan money for this. They took a big chance to do this. He provided some costs. He said it is very expensive to do this. This is all new for them. They have been doing Internet since 1986. They try not to put towers up; sometimes they have to. Fiber is the ultimate right now. There is nothing faster yet. Speeds go all the way up to 1 GB. The fiber is enclosed in 1-1/4" conduit along the right of way. Depth along the road right of way is usually 3 foot. There is nothing flammable or that can pollute. They fix yards. They have been doing it for a long time. Fiber North is all the way from the UP to the cities.

Other corrections on the right of way telecommunications permit were discussed.

Bond was discussed. Popp recommends no bond.

There was consensus to not require a bond.

Goss pointed out the motion is vague and does not mention the name of the company getting the permit.

Popp withdrew his motion.

Motion by Hubbell to approve the COLI Inc dba 186networks right of way telecommunications bilateral permit as amended, subject to provision of the appropriate certificates of insurance and as-built drawings; second by Benak.

Roll call vote: Benak, yes; Goss, yes; Hubbell, yes; Lawson, absent; Popp, yes. Motion carried.

Popp will make the changes to the permit, told them to include the insurance to Popp as well as Goss.

Standfest said it is marked where they are going to cross Skegemog Point Road.

Gaylord said they will be doing this as soon as it is ready to go. They have a timetable by the county road.

Board Comments/Discussion

Hubbell asked about Munro Road with no cable TV or internet service; what do they have to do to get it started.

Gaylord said the quickest and cheapest is wireless. They need a high point, something they can put a rebroadcast on, and he gave examples. Everything is line of sight. They can do it quickly if they have cooperation with everybody.

Discussion followed.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion by Hubbell to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Goss
Whitewater Township Clerk