AGENDA

CONNECTIVITY Ad Hoc COMMITTEE

Monday, October 19, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom Meeting
9 James Street, Parry Sound, Ontario

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1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

"**THAT** the October 19th, 2020 Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee Agenda, be approved."

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

3. Other Business

i) Letter to Provincial Ministries re Connectivity

Pages: 1-2

ii) Regional Broadband Initiative

Update

4. Closed Meeting

"THAT Committee move into a CLOSED MEETING at _____ a.m./p.m., pursuant to Section 239(2)(c)(d)(f) of the Municipal Act, 2001,S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, to deal with a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality; labour relations or employee negotiations; and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose."

i) Land negotiations within the township
ii) Resource needs
iii) Agreement negotiations with Vianet

OPEN MEETING

"THAT Committee move out of a CLOSED MEETING at _____ a.m./p.m."

5. Next Meeting

6. Adjournment

"**THAT** the Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee does hereby adjourn at _____ a.m.

MMAH - One letter or 4? ✓

October 6, 2020

Hon. Victor Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

Hon. Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

Hon. Laurie Scott
Minister of Infrastructure

Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

DRAFT

Dear Minister.....

Re: Connectivity Initiatives

We were pleased to hear the announcement regarding the provincial investment of $150M in reliable broadband and cellular service (part of the province's $315 million initiative called *Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan).* The Township of the *Archipelago and the Township of Seguin, representing the 7 municipalities of West Parry Sound, are* eager to support and partner with the Province to improve connectivity for the West Parry Sound area and Northern Ontarians.

The COVID-19 virus has brought to our attention the need for good connectivity for our future success. Many of our residents have had difficulty coping with remote work, education and access to health care through these times due to limited access to the internet. *Our municipalities* are ready to act and monies have been budgeted this year, as in previous years, to invest in our area connectivity needs. We are keen to discuss several exciting turn-key projects that will result in the efficient and effective use of tax dollars and grants received from you to immediately address internet availability issues for the residents of our area and our First Nation neighbours as well as to provide additional connectivity opportunities for all Northern Ontarians. Thanks to the ongoing support of the Province, these projects will provide for many economic development opportunities resulting in business retention and expansion, the attraction of new business and industry, short-term and long-term jobs, and, better access to health care and educational opportunities.

We have several shovel ready projects planned for our area – and many others – that benefit from a well-researched and grass roots crafted solution. Our *Municipalities, together with its SMART Community Collaborative* have information, resources and a plan to act now.

We are requesting a virtual meeting with you to share our model, which can be used by other municipalities as a best practice model, on how to leverage monies that you have provided to us

through the Modernization Fund to advance our common vision for area-wide connectivity and to demonstrate what can be accomplished when municipalities work together with the help of the Province toward common goals.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Reeve Bert Liverance
Township of The Archipelago

DRAFT