

Patty Iazzetto
Trustee

Judith H. Zabicki
Clerk

Michelle Heit
Supervisor

Jack Rogers
Treasurer

Pete Rahm
Trustee



March 1, 2023

The Gateway of Michigan

Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Lansing, Michigan

Re: ROBIN Grant Support Letter

Dear MIHI Office:

I am writing to voice New Buffalo Township's support of Comcast's application for funding from the Realizing Opportunities with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) to expand fiber-to-the-premise broadband service in Berrien County and New Buffalo Township.

Rural Townships need reliable Internet service and the project proposed by Comcast will help Berrien County and New Buffalo Township achieve goals for economic development, job retention, educational achievement and the overall health and well-being of our residents. For many of our Township residents, businesses, and agricultural operations the negative impacts of COVID-19 were significantly worsened by poor or no Internet access.

This grant would enable broadband deployment to approximately 4,000 unserved and underserved homes and business in rural Berrien County including in New Buffalo Township. This will allow our residents and businesses to access the fastest and most reliable speeds available and provide limitless opportunities.

New Buffalo Township supports efforts to expand Internet and will offer a financial commitment as a local contribution to be used to offset costs of constructing and building broadband services in New Buffalo Township.

I ask that the MiHi Office give strong consideration to approving the funding requested by Comcast to further expand broadband to unserved areas of Berrien County and New Buffalo Township.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Heit", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Heit
Supervisor
New Buffalo Township

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION IN
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION #20230309**

WHEREAS, Berrien County is managing the deployment of ARPA funds to governmental agencies to assist in the deployment of broadband access throughout the county;

WHEREAS, New Buffalo Township is a governmental agency within Berrien County;

WHEREAS, the New Buffalo Township Board is interested in expanding broadband service to the unserved and underserved areas of the Township;

WHEREAS, the Township exemplifies appropriate budgetary controls for the judicious management of tax payer dollars and conducts an audit of its financial statements on an annual basis;

WHEREAS, the Township has from time-to-time managed state and federal grant dollars for Township infrastructure improvements;

WHEREAS, New Buffalo Township is prepared to internally contribute a funding match of \$300,000 toward the construction costs of the expansion of broadband services to our township's underserved and unserved areas;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

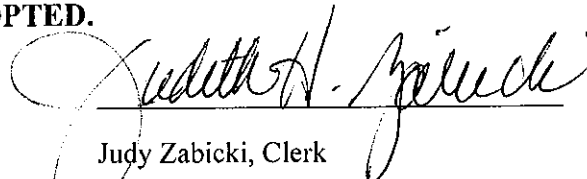
As a result of it's review of the many benefits the proposed expansion of broadband services to the underserved and unserved areas of the township, the Board approves a local match of \$300,000 toward the cost of the expansion. The funds to be paid from the Township's ARPA fund balance and a Pokagon Fund grant.

AYES:

NAYES:

ABSTAINED:

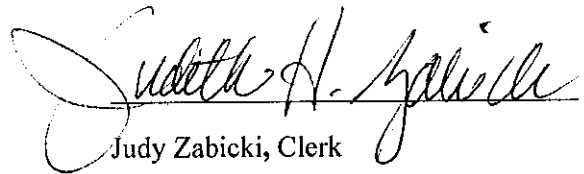
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Judy Zabicki, Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held on March 9th, 2023, at which a meeting a quorum was present, and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 167 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1976 (MCL 15.261 *et. seq.*).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judy H. Zabicki", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first letter 'J' being particularly large and looping.

Judy Zabicki, Clerk

Patty Iazzetto
Trustee

Judith H. Zabicki
Clerk

Michelle Heit
Supervisor

Jack Rogers
Treasurer

Pete Rahm
Trustee



The Gateway of Michigan

March 9, 2023

Matching Funds Letter of Support

Please accept this letter in support of Midwest Energy & Communications' (MEC) application for the Realizing Opportunities Broadband Infrastructure Network (ROBIN) grant.

MEC's proposed construction in New Buffalo Township will bring service to approximately 190 residences and businesses.

New Buffalo Township is committed to contributing \$300,000 to this proposed project and will work closely with MEC to help ensure its success.

We expect that MEC's project will provide significant economic benefits to our community by ensuring that people can successfully live and work here.

We are proud to partner with MEC and support its vision of creating vibrant, relevant, sustainable rural communities.


Signature

Signature

Michelle Heit
Printed Name

Terry Rubenthaler
Printed Name

New Buffalo Township Supervisor
Title

Chief Operating Officer
Title

New Buffalo Township
Organization

Midwest Energy & Communications
Company

March 9th, 2023
Date

Date