



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5A

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: November 26, 2019

Title of Item: Blandin Iron Range Community Broadband Grants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>
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Submitted by: Ross Wagner	Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
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Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator	Estimated Time Needed: 10 Minutes
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Summary of Issue:
 As a member of the Blandin Foundation Iron Range Broadband Community, Aitkin County has received a grant of \$50,000.00 to in turn grant out to community projects that promote broadband adoption in Aitkin County. Part of this process is to hold Community Listening Sessions to get community feedback and ideas on potential projects. This past December, a second Community Listening session was held and several ideas were generated. As a result, the following projects are being brought to the County Board for final approval of receiving a grant from the Blandin Iron Range Broadband Community grant fund. This is now the third time Aitkin County has received Blandin Foundation Iron Range Broadband Community grants to distribute to community projects that promote broadband adoption. The projects are listed below and summary sheets are attached. Please note that the Fiber into Long Lake Conservation Center has already been approved to accommodate SCI's work schedule. There is \$5,490.00 left in the fund for upcoming projects such as remote learning at LLCC that will be connected with the sites in McGregor, Aitkin and Hill City and or business training, Aitkin County mobile apps.
 * Wi-Fi Hotspot, Jacobson Community Center, \$3,600.00
 * Long Lake Conservation Center Fiber Build, \$15,000.00
 * My Chart, Riverwood Healthcare Center, \$20,000.00
 * Enhancements to Remote Learning Centers, \$5,910.00
 Total current requests, \$44,510.00; total matching funds/in-kind, \$13,670.00; total projects, \$58,180.00.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
 Approve grant requests.

Financial Impact:
Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No
What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ 44,510.00, already received grant funds.
Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*