

## Leighton Township Planning Commission Minutes

**Date:** March 9, 2022, 7:00 PM

**Members Present:** Stephen Shoemaker, Brad Geers, , Ben Potts, Matt VanDuyn, Matt VanderEide.

**Members Absent:** Harry DeHaan, John Hooker (both with notice)

**Also Present:** Lori Castello from PCI, plus one member of the public/presenter.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Ben Potts at 7:00 PM
- 2. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2022.** Minutes were accepted as presented with an amendment to correct the spelling of “Dykhouse”.
- 3. Public Comments for items not on the agenda:** None
- 4. Inquiry of Conflict of Interest:** None
- 5. Public Hearing:** None
- 6. New Business: Jill Dunham, Allegan County Broadband Project Manager presentation:** Ms. Dunham came to speak to the Planning Commission regarding grant money the County has received. Approximately 18 million dollars has been allocated for installation of fiber across the county. The Planning Commission was informed that each municipality is being urged to create a plan and make contact with potential internet providers. A committee should be formed to identify areas that have no available service, which areas would be most impacted by service being made available, and what potential providers would be willing to serve the area. The committee would also create a proposed prioritized list of mile-long segments. She is working with the county to create a county wide survey which she will push out to local units for their use to determine availability, potential consumers (those who would be willing to purchase internet service were it made available to them), etc. to gather information that would help prioritize areas. The survey will be made available through schools, community libraries, social media, etc. to make a push to get information especially from those who do not have internet service to their homes. Ms. Dunham noted that \$18 million is not enough to provide access for the entire county or even a fraction thereof, so those communities who are proactive in creating an action plan to be put into motion when funds are available will be most likely to be benefitted. There is also an additional funding opportunity through the ARPA grant that will be coming later this year and may provide additional dollars for unserved and underserved areas.
- 7. Old Business.**

- a. **Harvest Meadows Condominium Phase II.** No action at this time.
  
- 8. Public Comments:** None
  
- 9. Correspondence:** None
  
- 10. Commissioner Comments:** None
  
- 11. Adjournment. Motion by Geers to adjourn. The motion was supported by Shoemaker and carried via voice vote with all members voting yes.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Castello  
Leighton Township Zoning Administrator