DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Meeting in person and videoconference – April 15, 2021 4:30 pm

Present
Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Wil Cwikiel, Vicki Smith
Absent
Neal Green, Gary Conant,
Others
Dick Mulvihill, Chris Sorensen, Nathan Altman

Motion to approve agenda and minutes by McNamara, second by Smith, all approve.

GLE Recap
McNamara and Boyle were able to follow up with Shaun Lamp after the GLE executives met. Unfortunately, GLE does not feel it is feasible to work with us mentioning the cost of equipment and the rising costs of tower climbing. Boyle has mailed out a response to GLE in hopes to have further discussion. Cwikiel updates board on federal government Covid packages. Beaver Island did not receive any funds. Cwikiel would like to join McNamara and Boyle in the GLE discussions.

The link to the north will need to be strongly pursued if GLE will not work with the island. The CFO of NMU believes that the link to the island can be accomplished. The biggest concern for NMU is the distance over the water and making sure that the island has a quality link. Discussion about a parity link to Greens Bay.

American Rescue Plan
Mulvihill shared info on the plan. Covid money that needs to be paid out and the funds are ready, if we meet qualifications. Michigan is estimated to receive $686.4 M.
Mulvihill has been in contact with Stabenow's office. The Michigan Township Association should have more info for our townships, can we reach out to them? Discussion about contacting Dan Byers, planning assistant to St. James Township, to further investigate.
Discussion on creating an Island Technology Plan to attach to applications and grants for informative and presentation purposes.

The board will wait to do any further studies until we hear from GLE, decide on the up-north link and find further info about the American Rescue Plan Act.
Motion to adjourn by Cwikiel, 2nd by McNamara, all in favor.

Next Meeting Date The next BITAC Meeting will be May 19, 2021. We may meet sooner depending on GLE and U.P. developments.