



SAN BENITO COUNTY Information Technology Committee

Committee:

***Vice-Chair of the Board of Supervisor Bob Tiffany, District 4 and
Board of Supervisor Betsy Dirks, District 1***

**AGENDA MINUTES
Thursday, March 17, 2022
10:00 AM.**

San Benito County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Chambers
481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

10:00 AM CALL TO ORDER

1. ROLL CALL.

Supervisor Tiffany X
Supervisor Dirks X

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

*The pledge of Allegiance was led by **Supervisor Betsy Dirks, District #1***

3. ACKNOWLEDGE CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Motion to acknowledge certificate of posting:
Made by **Supervisor Betsy Dirks**
Seconded by **Supervisor Bob Tiffany**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: *Opportunity to address the Committee on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Section 54954.2.*

Phil Esparza, chairperson for San Juan Rotary Access Committee. Looking to partner and work with other agencies to find plausible solutions to provide access to broadband/internet. Would like to be an active partner of the County.

Administrative staff request for one of the present committee members to act as the Acting Informational Technology (IT) Committee Chair while staff work to have an appointment of chair item at the following special Informational Technology Committee meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO AB 361- Adopt proposed resolution authorizing teleconferencing options for meetings of the Committee for the period of February 14, 2022, through March 14, 2022, pursuant to AB 361.

MOTION

Motion to approve the proposed resolution as presented.

Made by **Supervisor Betsy Dirks** and seconded by **Supervisor Bob Tiffany.**

2-0 Vote

For (2)

Ayes: Dirks, Tiffany

Against: (0)

Noes: -

6. BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATES

- a. Update on RCRC: Broadband Strategic Plan application next steps and possible funding opportunities.

Sacramento Villicana, Informational Technology Manager, informed the Committee that Barbara Hayes from RCRC will not be available to provide an update.

County Administrative Officer, Ray Espinosa, did provide an update on the discussion with Patrick Blacklock, executive director for RCRC, and mentioned they are still waiting on a response from EDA. No further updates. Have Barbara Hayes at the next meeting.

- b. Update on Auction 904 Broadband Project:
- i. Etheric Networks
 - ii. Hankins technology

Sacramento, Information Technology manager, introduced representative Laura Schaub to provide an update on Auction 904. The process is rolling along. Long completed their application for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Auction and is currently pending Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) designation. Cannot move forward with Federal Communications Commission approval without ETC designation. The plan was to have ETC designation sorted out in March, then April. There are no updates at this time but will quickly move forward once ETC has been designated.

James received notification from the California Public Utilities Commission on ETC status, has provisional approval, and will be tentatively finalized on April 7, 2022. Sacramento asked if James could provide information on the areas covered under ETC status.

ETC status covers coyote valley south of San Jose, rural Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, Hollister, and some of Paicines.

c. County Library Broadband project: Nora Conte/Erin Baxter

Nora introduced the item, and the library staff provided a brief presentation. Erin Baxter, the supervising librarian at San Benito County Free Library, and Katie Elkhart., IT Library Technician, provided an overview of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, the library's application to the federal communications commission, and provided information on the library kiosk.

Other programs presented were the affordable Connectivity program (ACP). For this program, library staff, in partnership with California State Library and the California Emerging Technology fund, have collaborated to promote the program and provide application assistance. Members of the public can reach out to library staff for further information.

Library tech tutorials have been provided in the past years, and the library is now providing these services off the bookmobile and via zoom for members of the public interested in learning about using laptops, using library databases, email basics, etc.

The library literacy and technology mobile is the most immediate project coming in late spring or early summer. It will provide tech tutorials, classes, laptops, tablets, hotspot lending, and other perks.

As technology evolves, the library will continue to adapt and evolve.

Supervisor Dirks asked when the bus would be in use.

Erin provided a tentative timeline for bus use in late spring or early summer.

Supervisor Tiffany asked where the mobile bus will be located or where it would visit.

Erin informed the Committee that the library has a bookmobile coordinator that goes out to schools, parks, community locations, and as far South as Pinnacles.

Supervisor Tiffany asked how members may know where the bookmobile would be?

Erin responded that if the location has a person in charge, arrangements are made; otherwise, social media is utilized to promote bookmobile locations and post information on the library webpage. Schools are the exception as public members cannot be on school grounds.

Supervisor Tiffany asked about the timeline of the Kiosk?

Erin expressed that it was dependent on Resource Management Agency, permits, and the construction but aiming for a start in early summer.

Supervisor Tiffany lastly asked for input on the library grant that is in process.

Nora Conte provided background information regarding the grant and is hopeful of securing the funding.

Supervisor Dirks asked for clarification on technology at the migrant center and when it will go into effect.

Sacramento provided clarity, stated it was a mobile type of connection, and clarified that this would be part of the FCC grant.

Public Comment Opened.

Phil Esparza: will there be an opportunity to have a subcommittee to meet with staff to have working sessions to focus the Committee.

Barbara Thompson provided a general answer; briefly, it is challenging to do a subcommittee with two board members – can do a working group. It would be ideal to have more committee members to implement subcommittees.

Public Comment Closed.

7. Community Broadband Task Force Membership:
Provide updates concerning membership

Sacramento introduced the item. As the broadband committee task members wanted to ask to share the platform, members provided updates to it related to broadband projects and initiative and collaboration efforts.

Supervisor Tiffany asks Phil Esparza to share comments.

Phil Esparza expressed some concerns and asked that the Committee work in collaboration with the Broadband task force to address some of the circumstances. Have a positive working relationship.

Supervisor Tiffany provided further comments. The thinking is that the grant will provide a strategic plan allowing us to apply for additional funds. Still need to work out the logistics of how the Committee will collaborate with the task force.

CAO provided comments.

Supervisor Dirks provided further comments.

Public comment opened.

James provided comments.

Public comment closed.

CLOSED SESSION

8. CLOSED SESSION – GOVERNMENT SECTION CODE 54957

THREAT TO PUBLIC SERVICES OR FACILITIES

Consultation with Barbara Thompson, County Counsel, Sacramento Villicana, Information Technology manager.

Barbara Thompson read the item into record.

Public comment opened.

Public comment closed.

No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:43 AM

MOTION

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Made by **Supervisor Betsy Dirks** and seconded by **Supervisor Bob Tiffany.**

2-0 Vote

For (2)

Ayes: Dirks, Tiffany

Against: (0)

Noes: -

As required by Gov. Code Section 54957.5 any public record distributed to the San Benito Economic Development Committee less than 72 hours prior to this meeting in connection with any agenda item shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board, San Benito County Administration Building, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Public records distributed during the meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting if prepared by the County. If the public record is prepared by some other person and distributed at the meeting it will be made available for public inspection following the meeting at the office of the Clerk of the Board.

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