

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Sup. Rich Bostwick & Ad Hoc  
Broadband Committee  
INITIATED BY



12/4/2023  
DATE DRAFTED

**Approving Broadband ARPA Repayment Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the Rock County Broadband Expansion Project includes various funding sources including industrial revenue bonds, a grant from the public service commission and American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") funding for expanding broadband service in Rock County; and

**WHEREAS**, Rock County entered into an agreement with Bug Tussel Wireless allowing Fond du Lac County to issue \$10.9 million in industrial Revenue Bonds obligating Bug Tussel Wireless to repay the bonds over a 30-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, as a part of a bond issuance, and as an inducement to reduce the interest rate applicable to the bond repayment, Rock County provided a guarantee on the repayment of the bonds and in exchange for this guarantee Bug Tussel Wireless agreed to pay Rock County a fee; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a part of the project, the County pledged to lend Bug Tussel Wireless \$3.6 million in ARPA funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee recommended that the terms of the ARPA loan be issued for a term of 30 years at an interest rate of 5.4% per annum, and secured by the assets constructed with the ARPA funds;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the terms of the repayment agreement, Bug Tuseel Wireless would pay Rock County approximately \$265,000 per year, for a total of \$7,000,000 covering principal and interest over the 30 year term.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 14th day of December, 2023, does hereby approved Rock County to enter into a loan agreement and all necessary security agreements or other documentation which would provide for the lending to \$3.6 million in ARPA funds to Bug Tussel Wireless at a rate of 5.4% per annum for a term of 30 years, and secured by a security interest in the physical assets constructed with ARPA funds the landed funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the payments under this agreement will be set-aside for broadband-related project activities, including local cash match for state/federal grant programs.

FISCAL NOTE:

The funds collected from the Guarantee Fees and ARPA repayments will be deposited to an account in a special revenue fund intended to be used for broadband related expenditures. Using a special revenue fund allows the account to have it's own fund balance that will carryover from year to year. Therefore, it does not lapse to the general fund.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Approving this resolution would be consistent with the direction the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee and County Board have previously provided.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

Ad Hoc Broadband Committee

The Ad Hoc Broadband Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.

Planning & Development Committee

The Planning and Development Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a unanimous voice vote.