

FINANCE
June 22, 2021

Call to order The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Koch at 1:00 p.m. Committee members present were Geri Kozelka, Gerry Krachey, Wayne Jerrett and Greg Russell. Also present was Tom Cornford, County Board Chairman; Dale Klemme, Community Development; Rod Olson, Vernon Communications; Mark Peterson, Corp Counsel; Mark Forsythe, Cheryl Mader; Carol Roth and Roberta Fisher, County Clerk.

Verify posting The meeting was verified as being properly posted.

Partnership Agreement - Vernon Communications Rod Olson, Vernon Communications Cooperative appeared before the committee to explain the need for a Public Private Partnership Agreement with Crawford County.

Vernon Communications is willing to apply for a Public Service Commission grant that would expand access to broadband in the northern section of Crawford County. This would include the Town of Freeman, Town of Utica and Town of Seneca. The PSC grant would require a PPP Agreement between Crawford County and Vernon Communications Cooperative.

Mr. Olson predicted this would be about a \$7 million project. Vernon Communications will write the grant for 80-85%. The agreement would require Crawford County to finance the project throughout the construction phases, and then Vernon Communications would reimburse the county as the grant money is received.

The agreement also authorizes Crawford County to provide \$350,000 towards the project. Some of the county's allotted ARPA funds could be used for this project.

Mark Peterson, Corporation Counsel has reviewed the agreement.

Motion by Krachey; Jerrett second to recommend to full county board the approval of Resolution to Enter Into a Public Private Partnership Agreement with Vernon Communications Cooperative. The motion carried with no negative votes cast.

Adjournment

Russell moved; Krachey second to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with no negative votes cast, and the meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Roberta A. Fisher, County Clerk