RESOLUTION NO. 2021-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR BROADBAND PERMITTING AS A BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of County of Huntington, Indiana ("County Commissioners"), as the duly elected executive body of Huntington County, seeks to promote private investment in broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Huntington County seeks to be certified as a Broadband Ready Community pursuant to IC 5-28-28.5; and

WHEREAS, Huntington County is required to comply with the statutory requirements listed in IC 5-28-28.5-7 by establishing a procedure to review applications and issue permits for broadband projects in order to be certified as a Broadband Ready Community; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERSOF HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

Section 1: As used in this chapter, "permit" means any local permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, or similar form of approval required by policy, administrative rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution with respect to a project.

Section 2: As used in this chapter, "project" means the construction or deployment of wireline or wireless communications facilities to provide communications services (as defined in IC 8-1-32.5-3) in Huntington County.

<u>Section 3</u>: Notwithstanding any other provision Huntington County's ordinances, regulations, policies or practices, the following shall apply to a project:

The County Commissioners of Huntington County shall:

- (a) Appoint a single point of contact for all matters related to a project
- (b) Establish procedures to allow all forms, applications, and documentation related to a project to be filed or submitted and signed by electronic means;
- (c) Review and approve or reject all applications for a permit related to a project within ten (10) business days after an application is filed or submitted;
- (d) Assure applicants that after an application is approved pursuant to subsection (a)(3), any inspections, including any additional necessary approvals related to a project, will occur in a timely and expeditious manner.

Section 4: Huntington County shall adopt adequate processes and procedures to implement the provisions of Section 3. Processes and procedures established hereunder shall not do the following:

- (a) Require an applicant to designate a final contractor to complete a project;
- (b) Impose a fee to review an application or issue a permit for a project;
- (c) Impose a seasonal moratorium on the issuance of permits for a project;
- (d) Discriminate among communications service providers or utilities with respect to any action described in this section or otherwise related to a project, including granting access to public rights-of-way, infrastructure and poles, river and bridge crossings, and any other physical assets owned or controlled by Huntington County.

SO RESOLVED this 6th day of July, 2021

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HUNTINGTON-COUNTY, INDIANA

Tom Wall, President

Rob Miller

Terry Stoffel

ATTEST:

Jill/Landrum, Huntington County Auditor