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# CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, January 28, 2021  
2:00 p.m.  
Meeting to be held electronically.

## **Agenda**

1. Approval of Agenda
  2. Adoption of January 14, 2021 Minutes
  3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof
  4. Delegation – Brad Mousseau, UpLink Wireless
  5. Connectivity Committee Action Plan – Developing a Strategy for 2021 (to be circulated)
  6. Date of Next Meeting
  7. Adjournment
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**Meeting:** Connectivity Committee  
**Date:** January 14, 2021  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Webex

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**Attendees:** Tom Marks, Warden and Committee Chair  
Dominique Giguère, Councillor and Committee Vice Chair  
Duncan McPhail, Councillor  
Justin Pennings, Community Member  
Mike Andrews, Community Member  
Joshua Kiirya, Community Member

**Regrets:** Shawn Southern, Community Member

**Staff:** Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer  
Jim Bundschuh, Director of Financial Services  
Cecil Coxen, IT Manager – Township of Malahide  
Katherine Thompson, Supervisor of Legislative Services  
Carolyn Krahn, Legislative Services Coordinator

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **1. Call to Order**

The Connectivity Committee met this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the January 14<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### **3. Adoption of December 17, 2020 Minutes**

Moved by: Justin Pennings  
Seconded by: Councillor Giguère

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted as amended.

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## Recorded Vote

	Yes	No	Abstain
Councillor Giguère	Yes		
Councillor McPhail			Abstain
Mike Andrews	Yes		
Justin Pennings	Yes		
Warden Marks	Yes		
	4	0	1

- Motion Carried.

#### 4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None.

#### 5. Delegations – Steve VanGroningen, Xplornet

Steve VanGroningen, Manager of Corporate Affairs – Xplornet Communications, provided information regarding Xplornet’s application to the Universal Broadband Fund and requested that Elgin County provide a letter of support for their application. The application is due on February 15, 2021.

The Committee agreed to refer the request to Council for their consideration at the January 26, 2021 meeting.

#### 6. Planning Session #1: Made In Elgin Solution to Elgin's Connectivity Challenges, Chief Administrative Officer

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of Rural Ontario Municipal Association’s Municipal Connectivity Roadmap, and the Committee discussed what role the County of Elgin should play in connectivity.

The Committee agreed that the County’s strategy should include a combination of options three (3) and four (4):

- Incentives for ISPs to create their own network, and
- Municipality-built and ISP operated networks.

The Chief Administrative Officer received feedback from the County Solicitor

regarding how the provision of incentives relates to the *Municipal Act's* prohibition of bonusing. The feedback will be circulated to Committee members.

The Committee directed the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a framework for developing a connectivity solution in Elgin County. The Committee will review the framework at the next meeting. The Committee will then present the framework to Council for their approval.

**7. Correspondence – Kristi Rockley’s Answers to the Internet Connectivity Survey**

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from Kristi Rockley and Sheryl Ellis-Potier.

Moved by: Councillor Giguère  
 Seconded by: Justin Pennings

RESOLVED THAT the correspondence from Kristi Rockley and Sheryl Ellis-Potier be received.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Councillor Giguère	Yes		
Councillor McPhail	Yes		
Mike Andrews	Yes		
Justin Pennings	Yes		
Joshua Kiirya	Yes		
Warden Marks	Yes		
	6	0	

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee will meet again on January 28, 2021 at 2:00 pm

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by: Mike Andrews  
 Seconded by: Joshua Kiirya

RESOLVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:59 pm.

## Recorded Vote

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Councillor Giguère	Yes	
Councillor McPhail	Yes	
Mike Andrews	Yes	
Justin Pennings	Yes	
Joshua Kiirya	Yes	
Warden Marks	Yes	
	6	0

- Motion Carried.



## Internet Solution Proposal



**ElginCounty**  
*Progressive by Nature*

# Our Solution



- ▶ Hybrid Solution
- ▶ Fiber and Wireless Mix
- ▶ 8 to 12 towers 150ft tall covering the county
- ▶ Several 100ft POP's
- ▶ Fiber connections between towers
- ▶ Connecting homes along the path

# Our Services



## HIGH SPEED

- Unlimited packages
- Universal Min
- 50mbps/10mbps



- Over 150 Channels
- Local News
- PVR



- Can Port Most Numbers
- Unlimited North America
- E911

- Fixed wireless speeds of 100 to 150 as capacity / technology evolves
- Fiber services from 25 to 150mbps



# What We Need

- ▶ Access to All Water towers
- ▶ Engineering support from county / municipalities
  - ▶ Eg. Hwy 3, rail crossings
- ▶ Access to County / Municipal Land for towers
- ▶ Funding via Grant / Loan
- ▶ Private / Public Partnership?
- ▶ \$2 to \$4 Million

# What We Will Do

- ▶ All towers online with in 9 months
- ▶ Fiber connecting all towers by end of 2022
- ▶ Connect any County / Municipal facilities as requested
- ▶ Estimate 70% of county Serviced by wireless
  - ▶ Excluding built up areas like Dutton
  - ▶ Excluding homes deep in tree cover or ravines
- ▶ Give residents more choice

# Our Commitment to Elgin

- ▶ We are the only ISP based in Elgin County
- ▶ Keep our offices / services in the county
- ▶ Support local groups / sports teams / Not for profits etc
- ▶ Continually reinvest into our network like we have so far

# Work with NTFC

- ▶ Deploy towers along existing fiber paths
- ▶ Run dual conduits everywhere for shared access
- ▶ Use towers for redundant links
- ▶ Low cost whole sale fiber access
- ▶ Access to existing conduits for additional fiber
- ▶ Give residents choice

