



Staff Report

Agenda Item: **A Resolution Supporting The Application For The Department Of Agriculture Rural Utility Services Broadband Initiatives Program And The Department Of Commerce National Telecommunications And Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant –**
Approval of the Resolution Of The Town Of Clarkdale, Arizona, Supporting The Application For The Department Of Agriculture Rural Utility Services Broadband Initiatives Program And The Department Of Commerce National Telecommunications And Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant For Federal Funds For The Broadband Infrastructure Construction And Program Development For The Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative Project.

Staff Contact: Sherry Bailey, Community Development Director

Meeting Date: July 28, 2009

Background:

Staff has been working with the group developing the Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative for the purpose of applying for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to bring affordable, continuous and reliable broadband service to the valley. The first round grant submittals are due on the 14th of August. The resolution in your packet is in support of that submittal on behalf of the Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative. Clarkdale will be the submitting community. The founding group is the five incorporated communities and the county if state law allows their participation. Between the time of the submittal and the award announcement and acceptance by the group the cooperative will be incorporated, their structure in place and membership categories and cost set. The membership will be the owners of the cooperative very similar to the rural electric cooperatives that brought electricity to the rural areas.

This resolution and the grant submittal is just the first step. If the request is successful, the council will have to act to accept the grant, to approve the cooperative and to vote to become one of the founding members. This process will result ultimately in the creation of a stand alone corporation with the town being one of the founding board members.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the approval of the Resolution Of The Town Of Clarkdale, Arizona, Supporting The Application For The Department Of Agriculture Rural Utility Services

Broadband Initiatives Program And The Department Of Commerce National
Telecommunications And Information Administration Broadband Technology
Opportunities Program Grant For Federal Funds For The Broadband Infrastructure
Construction And Program Development For The Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative
Project.

If approved, Resolution # _____.

RESOLUTION #

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE, ARIZONA, SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL UTILITY SERVICES BROADBAND INITIATIVES PROGRAM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM GRANT FOR FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE VERDE VALLEY BROADBAND COOPERATIVE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the creation of a Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative and the development of a valley wide, affordable, continuous and reliable broadband service is a major consideration for the quick and healthy economic recovery of the Verde Valley area, and

WHEREAS, in response to the desire on the part of the Town of Clarkdale to support an application for broadband project funds, the Mayor and Common Council, on behalf of the Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative, desire to submit applications to both the Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services Broadband Initiatives Program and the Department of Commerce National Telecommunication Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program; and

WHEREAS, this application is in keeping with the five purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in that the application will create jobs and promote economic recovery; assists those impacted by the recession; provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency; provides for investment in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits and works to help stabilize local government budgets; and

WHEREAS, competitive broadband access is seen as a tool to drive economic opportunity and enhance the quality of life for the residents and businesses of the Town of Clarkdale and region wide the Verde Valley;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE, ARIZONA AS FOLLOWS: That the Mayor and Common Council approve the filing of the Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services Broadband Initiatives Program and the Department of Commerce National Telecommunication Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Grant Applications for federal funds to support the Verde Valley Broadband Cooperative broadband project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Common Council on the 28th day of July, 2009.

Doug Von Gausig, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Kathy Bainbridge, Town Clerk