

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY: Your County Finance Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, certain areas of Berrien County lack the accessibility to broadband; and

WHEREAS, a sub-committee of Commissioners were appointed to the Berrien County Broadband Internet Taskforce (BCBIT) and through their work, it was determined that data collection would be needed to satisfy requests to the federal government for funding to expand the infrastructure, bringing Broadband to those unserved areas; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with Merit Network, Inc. via Resolution #F2012421 dated December 17, 2020 to collect that data; and

WHEREAS, additional mapping and services related to the data gathered is needed; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC), who has been working with BCBIT, has provided a proposal for taking the collected broadband data and converting it to GIS StoryMap presentation material for an hourly range between \$49 and \$110, not to exceed \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the SWMPC will obtain a one-year license for the GEO Partners Crowd Source and Mapping service in the amount of \$5,000; GEO Crowd Source and Mapping allows the user to identify a geographic area without broadband internet and model various scenarios that would result in the provision of broadband internet; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement with SWMPC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners approves the contract with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for mapping and services related to the Berrien County Broadband Internet Taskforce and authorizes the Chairperson to execute the related contract.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mamie L. Yarbrough, Chairperson

Jon Hinkelman, Vice-Chairperson

Ezra A. Scott

Teri Sue Freehling

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| RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM | |
| Administrator <u>D 17</u> | Date <u>9.21.21</u> |
| Comments Attached _____ | |
| Corporate Counsel _____ | Date _____ |
| Comments Attached _____ | |