

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-295

2
3 SPONSOR Executive Shapiro

4
5 DATE October 4, 2021

COMMITTEE Planning

6
7 **An Amended Resolution authorizing a professional service contract, subject to an award**
8 **by the Board of Control, with Environmental Design Group, LLC, to perform consulting**
9 **services in the planning of the expansion of broadband services into opportunity zones and**
10 **job hub areas, ratifying acceptance of an EDA Cares Act grant and authorizing the**
11 **required cash match for the Executive, in an amount not to exceed \$290,481.00, and**
12 **declaring an emergency.**

13
14 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the President signed the American Rescue Plan Act of
15 2021, (“ARPA”) section 9901, Pub.LNo.117-2 codified at 42 U.S.C. section 802 et seq.,
16 providing funds to support state, local and tribal governments in responding to the continuing
17 and evolving impact of COVID-19 on their communities; and

18
19 WHEREAS, ARPA provides funds to support projects which bring affordable high speed
20 symmetrical broadband service of at least 100Mbps into unserved and underserved areas and to
21 prioritize investments in fiber optic infrastructure where feasible, consistent with current FCC
22 benchmarks and further encourages the participation of networks owned, operated by or
23 affiliated with local governments and cooperatives, because they do not succumb to the pressure
24 of the profit motive; and

25
26 WHEREAS, many residents in Summit County live in areas that qualify as unserved or
27 underserved under the terms of ARPA and these residents continue to struggle from the effects
28 of COVID-19 in terms of employment, financial strain and educational deficits and would thus
29 benefit from affordable highspeed symmetrical broadband service in further working to recover
30 from the effects of the pandemic; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the Executive recognizes the need to address this digital divide in
33 economically distressed areas of the County (Opportunity Zones), as well as providing critical
34 infrastructure to areas of concentrated economic activity with the County (Job Hubs) in order to
35 expand economic development and bring together job seekers and employers; and

36
37 WHEREAS, in order to support this critical development for the County’s residents and
38 economy, the Executive applied for funds from the US Department of Commerce through an
39 EDA Cares Act grant and was awarded \$125,000 with a local match of ~~\$143,200.00~~ \$165,481.00
40 in a combination of cash and in-kind services, for the purpose of examining the feasibility of
41 expanding such service and maximizing the effectiveness of the County’s investment and
42 ultimately implementing that service; and

43
44 WHEREAS, in order to further support this critical development for the County’s
45 residents and economy, the Executive solicited proposals for planning and engineering services
46 in the analysis of work necessary, in accordance with the requirements of the ARPA interim final
47 rule, to provide high speed, symmetrical broadband of at least 100 Mbps into Job Hubs and
48 Opportunity Zones including fiber layout, cost and constructability of the project (“Project”); and

49
50 WHEREAS, after analyzing the proposals submitted, the Executive recommends
51 Environmental Design Group, LLC (“EDG”) as the most qualified firm to provide these services
52 to the County for the Project at a cost not to exceed \$290,481.00; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Board of Control ~~will consider the awarded~~ of a professional services
5 Agreement to EDG for services to the Project at its meeting ~~to be~~ held on September 22, 2021;
6 and
7

8 WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information,
9 that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to ratify the Executive's
10 execution of the grant agreement with the US Department of Commerce in the amount of
11 \$125,000 and authorize the commitment of in-kind funds of ~~\$143,200.00~~ \$165,481.00, to support
12 examining the feasibility of expanding such service and maximizing the effectiveness of the
13 County's investment and ultimately implementing high speed, symmetrical broadband of at least
14 100 Mbps pursuant to the Interim Final Rule; and
15

16 WHEREAS, this Council further finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent
17 information that, subject to the award of the Board of Control, the aforementioned professional
18 service contract with EDG is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit in the
19 furtherance of this project;
20

21 WHEREAS, this Council further finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent
22 information, that authorizing the professional service agreement with EDG in an amount not to
23 exceed \$290,481.00 to provide Summit County Residents and businesses high speed,
24 symmetrical broadband service of at least 100 Mbps is necessary due to the public health
25 emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic.;
26
27

28 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State
29 of Ohio, that:

30
31 SECTION 1

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33 This Council, subject to the award of the Board of Control, authorizes a professional
34 service agreement with Environmental Design Group, LLC, for planning and engineering
35 services in the analysis of work necessary to expand FairlawnGig into Job Hubs and Opportunity
36 Zones including fiber layout, cost and constructability of the project, at a cost not to exceed
37 \$290,481.00 and the Executive is hereby authorized to execute said professional service
38 agreement and any other necessary related documents.
39

40 SECTION 2

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42 This to Council ratifies the Executive's signature on a grant agreement executed with the
43 US Department of Commerce to accept the EDA CARES Act grant and the expenditure of a cash
44 match of up to ~~\$143,200.00~~ \$165,481.00.
45

46 SECTION 3

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48 This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and
49 welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately ratify
50 the acceptance of the EDA CARES Act grant and authorize the cash match in order to provide
51 for necessary analysis of work necessary to bring high speed symmetrical broadband service to
52 residents and businesses within Summit County's Job Hubs and Opportunity Zones.

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2 PAGE THREE

3
4 SECTION 4

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6 Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take
7 effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take
8 effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

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10 SECTION 5

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12 It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating
13 to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all
14 deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action,
15 were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section
16 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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19 INTRODUCED September 20, 2021

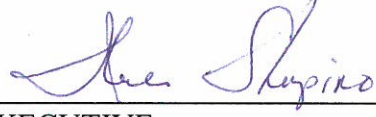
20
21 ADOPTED October 4, 2021

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24 
25 _____
26 CLERK OF COUNCIL



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

27 APPROVED October 5, 2021

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29 
30 _____
31 EXECUTIVE

32 ENACTED EFFECTIVE October 5, 2021

33

Voice Vote - YES: 10-0: DeVitis, Dickinson, Donofrio,
Feeman, McKenney, Rodgers, Schmidt, Sims, Walters, Wilhite
ABSENT: Darrow