

PREZ SEZ:

Hi all,

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy New Year as different as it might have been. It was the first since Kath and I met 46 year ago that we celebrated alone. I sure missed the WVPOAC annual New Years Eve Party : (

In any case, I just want to update you on a couple of items from my last communication.

First of all, the initiative to sell lot #7 passed with 99.8% in favor. Thanks for your support!!! The Board of Directors has decided that in an effort to maximize our proceeds from the sale we would offer it "by owner". You, as members will have the first opportunity to purchase the lot. If there is no interest, your family members will then have an opportunity. If there is no interest there it will be available for non-members to bid on. The price is \$43,000 and if there are multiple offers in any one category it will go to the highest bidder at or over \$43,000. If there are no takers in any of the categories we will then list it with a real estate firm. If you are interested, or know of anyone interested, please send the info and bid to jimnihls@gmail.com on or before January 25, 2021.

Secondly, regarding high speed internet access, I contacted Tom Sobeck, CEO of PIE&G. Tom made me aware that they were applying for State Grant funding to assist in their planned installation of fiber optic communications cable. Based on this conversation, John Moore, Nunda Township Supervisor and I sent emails to our House Representative, Sue Allor and our State Senator, Wayne Schmidt asking for their support in getting PIE&G's grant application approved. We copied Tom Sobeck so he could add our support to the grant package. A copy of our emails to Representative Allor are following this communication for your review. Identical emails were sent to Senator Schmidt.

If you would like to contact Rep. Allor or Sen. Schmidt to ask for their support in getting the grant application approved, you can call or email them at:

Representative Sue Allor
phone-517-373-0833
email-sueallor@house.mi.gov

Senator Wayne Schmidt
517-373-5144
senwschmidt@senate.michigan.gov

Here is hoping that the lot sells fast so we can pay off BLU LLC, that high speed Internet access arrives sooner than what we know now and that the vaccine distribution kicks into high gear and we can hold our May Memorial Day Annual Meeting in person.

Stay safe,

Jim

Here are the letters.....

December 30, 2020

Dear Representative Allor,

I recently learned that Presque Isle Electric & Gas Coop (PIE&G) will be filing an application for State Grant funding to assist with their planned installation of fiber optic communications cable. On behalf of our mutual constituents, I offer full and unqualified support for their request.

Nunda Township has been left behind by all other Internet Service Providers. AT&T has some DSL available within three miles of the Village of Wolverine, Sunrise Cable offers some service in the Village, and the Cell Phone companies provide service for those close to Interstate 75. Unfortunately, many of our residents live outside those coverage areas. However, almost all residences east of I-75 do have electricity provided by PIE&G, and the proposal is to match the existing electrical network with communication fiber optics.

The current pandemic has highlighted how important high-speed internet access is in difficult times. Whether it be distance learning, remote workers, shifting business to on-line, "zoom" meetings, virtual medical services, or a much-needed entertainment diversion, high-speed internet is a crucial requirement. Wolverine Schools have been able to provide some students with cell-phone wifi boxes, but many students live too far from the cell towers to receive adequate service. Those students must drive to town to get an internet connection to complete their school work. The same situation exists for employees wanting or needing to work from home, businesses trying to survive outside of their "normal" locations, or patients needing access to medical professionals, they currently do not have adequate internet service to provide those options. If PIE&G can match their electrical services with internet services, the possibilities are quite profound. Students could take classes not available locally or of an advanced level. More people could be employed in positions that don't require them to be in a central common location. On-line retail type businesses could be located almost anywhere.

I am sure that much of your district is in the same situation, and also in the PIE&G territory.

This project if fully developed would provide seven underserved disadvantaged counties in Northern Michigan a chance to finally see some opportunities for economic growth. To paraphrase "Field of Dreams", if they build it, growth will come.

Sincerely,
John D. Moore
Supervisor

cc Tom Sobeck

Dear Representative Allor,

In the last Zoom Board Meeting of the W.V.P.O.A.C. (Wildwood Valley Property Owners Association and Club), which is in essence the H.O.A. on Wildwood Lake in Wolverine, Michigan, the topic of internet access came up as it normally does. Subsequently, I contacted Tom Sobeck, CEO of PIE&G, to inquire on any fiber optic updates. Tom informed me that they were preparing to apply for a state grant funding to assist with their planned installation of fiber optic communications cable. On behalf of the WVPOAC membership I can say we fully and unconditionally support their request.

Located in Nunda Township East of I-75 internet service is spotty to non-existent. Electricity to our Members is supplied by PIE&G and the proposal is to match the existing electrical network with communication fiber optics at an affordable rate.

Along with the many disadvantages to businesses, remote workers, and virtual medical services, just to name a few, our membership is comprised of many recently retired full time residents that require high speed internet to stay in touch with their families and world/national/local news via Zoom, Facebook, and other internet media platforms. We also have many part time residents that require high speed internet to stay in touch with what is happening and work from the homes/cottages as the current Pandemic has dictated. There are also young families in the area with children that need internet access.

This project, if fully developed, is a Win-Win and most importantly would bring many parts of Northern Michigan into the 20th century.

Thank you in advance for your support of the dire needed initiative.

Respectfully,
James W. Nihls
President WVPOAC
PO Box 284
Wolverine, MI 49799
231-333-6121

cc Tom Sobeck