

1. **Services Agreement**

- a. Resolution 81-21 was passed at the 2-8-2021 Legislative Meeting authorizing the Chairman to sign a Services Agreement with Empire Access for operation of the ReConnect Network.
- b. Some final adjustments - mostly around legal language – should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- c. The Agreement would then go to the USDA for approval. The USDA review focuses on protection of asset rather than financial arrangement.
- d. Thanks to the Broadband Committee, the Legislature and Empire Access for all the efforts to bring this major step to fruition.

2. **Engineering**

- a. The engineering study is down to 3 preferred candidates.
- b. The goal is to bring a recommendation and a resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign a contract to the special 3/20 Legislative session.

3. **Construction**

- a. Goal to start Construction Summer 2021.

4. **Insurance**

- a. The USDA Grant and Security Agreement signed in 2020 specifies required insurances – 7CFR1788 -- network, flood, engineering, construction.
- b. Needing network insurance also ties back to the Services Agreement where Empire is responsible for maintenance and normal wear and tear repair but if the network is destroyed or substantially damaged Yates County would be responsible.
- c. We are working the Stork Insurance to understand the type and cost of insurance needed.

5. **NYS DOT ROW Fees**

- a. Have received confirmation that the ONLY exemption provided under the legislation are New NY Broadband Grants. Thus Yates County as a municipality is NOT exempt.
- b. Legislation to repeal this law is still in Committee.

6. **USDA's Online Financial Reporting and Compliance System**

- a. Beginning in April, we are required to start routine reporting in this System
- b. Resolution attached assigning security roles – Winona Flynn as the Representative-Signature-Certifier and Dan Long and Marian Walrath as Administrators.