



Sponsor: Lee Burger, Mayor
Introduction: September 6, 2022
Vote: 5 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Absent

**City of Thorne Bay
Resolution No. 22-09-06-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA,
SUPPORTING ALASKA POWER & TELEPHONE SUBSIDIARY APT WIRELESS, INC.'S REQUEST
FOR USDA RECONNECT FUNDS TO BUILD OUT FIBER OPTIC-BASED BROADBAND IN
THORNE BAY.**

WHEREAS; the City Council is the governing body for the City of Thorne Bay; and

WHEREAS; Thorne Bay municipal code 2.12.090 Resolutions – Formal Acts states, “Formal acts by the council not required by law to be enacted by ordinance and not being acts of a general and permanent nature may be adopted by resolution;” and

WHEREAS; through its subsidiaries, Alaska Power & Telephone Company provides utility services in the City of Thorne Bay, including power and limited telecommunications services; and

WHEREAS; locations within the City of Thorne Bay are underserved/unserved with respect to broadband; and

WHEREAS; USDA has provided grant funds to Alaska Power & Telephone subsidiary APT Wireless (APTW) to develop the SEALink advanced fiber optic network for Prince of Wales Island, but Thorne Bay is not yet included within the SEALink Scope; and

WHEREAS; APT Wireless is seeking funds through the USDA ReConnect program to develop fiber optic-based broadband for the community of Thorne Bay, so the community can participate in the benefits of the USDA-funded SEALink network; and

WHEREAS; Thorne Bay, a community within the Tongass National Forest region that originated as a logging camp, is seeking new economic opportunities that help diversify the local economy from its historic dependence upon the timber industry, and provide sustainable, family wage jobs; and

WHEREAS; high-speed, affordable broadband connectivity would be tremendously valuable to the community of Thorne Bay, and can help facilitate new economic development, distance learning, telemedicine opportunities, sharing cultural resources, and other benefits desired by residents, businesses, and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Section 1. The City of Thorne Bay supports APTW’s efforts to apply for ReConnect Funds to develop advanced broadband infrastructure for the community of Thorne Bay, and other communities on Prince of Wales Island.


Section 2. Thorne Bay hereby requests that the Secretary of Agriculture recognize that the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) is the tribal government corresponding to the greater SE Alaska region, which includes Thorne Bay, and accordingly, assign the APTW proposal the maximum tribal points allowable, despite omission of CCTHITA from USDA’s maps.

Section 3. Thorne Bay hereby requests that the Secretary of Agriculture prioritize APTW’s proposal to the fullest extent possible due to its proposed funded service areas including tribally- and ANCSA-owned lands qualifying as Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA).

Section 4. Thorne Bay hereby requests that the Secretary of Agriculture highly prioritize the APTW application due to the fact that it supports the OneUSDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, which seeks to provide economic diversification and sustainability within the Tongass National Forest region.

Section 5. Thorne Bay agrees it will gladly provide additional approvals for other right-of-way that may be required for a USDA-funded project, on commercially reasonable and typical terms.

Passed and Approved this 6th day of September 2022



Lee Burger, Mayor

Attest:



Teri Feibel, CMC City Clerk/Treasurer