

200W corridor could get fiber

By Mike Marturello | Posted: Tuesday, July 8, 2014 11:00 pm

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ANGOLA — Steuben County Council members put on hold one request and heard about another for spending upward of \$875,000 at the Steuben County Park on Tuesday.

Ron Smith, president of the Steuben County Board of Commissioners, said he will be presenting a more detailed request, but wants to spend up to \$700,000 in Major Moves funds on a new arena at the 4-H Fairgrounds. More details will be presented.

“It would be the envy of many counties around,” Smith said.

“It would really be an asset to the park,” said Eric Ditmars, parks superintendent, “especially getting revenue out of it.”

It is assumed that the facility would draw many shows.

Smith said he thought the \$700,000 request was on the high side.

“That figure is a guesstimate. It is probably high,” he said.

More details will be presented on the request at a later time.

The county has budgeted \$3 million in improvements at the campground, park and 4-H Fairgrounds. Leveling of land at the fairgrounds has taken place, but facilities have yet to be moved to that ground.

A rebuilding of the campground has also been done, but there are still some punch list items being done.

That would include possibly adding Internet service. A couple options are available, but what seems to be the most desirable would be to run Indiana Metropolitan Area Network fiber optic line to the area. A private business would provide Internet access to the park and



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Steuben County Commissioner Ron Smith, right, addresses Steuben County Councilwoman Linda Hansen during Tuesday’s meeting of the council. Smith was presenting information about improvements at the Steuben County Park.

other county facilities.

The plan would allow not only the county park and fairgrounds to have fiber access, but it would mean the high-speed communications capabilities could be available for the county highway department and also for business development in the area.

“I think we have to have fiber in that corridor,” said Councilwoman Sara Tubergen, who serves on the iMAN board. The iMAN system is a non-profit organization that’s an arm of the Steuben County Community Foundation. It serves many points in the county, including all schools and many businesses and government.

Both proposals were tabled by the council.