

Village to tap grant funds to to connect with OSC

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Officials made another stride toward enhancing New Albany's fiber optic network as Village Council approved the first contract

more than 1,850 miles of high-speed, fiber-optic network backbone to clients, including K-12 schools, colleges, academic medical centers and public broadcasting stations, according to OSC's Web site.

The building will store all the equipment

needed to join a major Ohio network.

Council approved a resolution at its Feb. 3 meeting to allow the village to connect New Albany Net to the Ohio Supercomputer Center at the facility in Westerville.

The Ohio Supercomputer Center provides

necessary to make the connection, said Jennifer Chrysler, New Albany community development director.

"This opportunity is for us to piggy-back on

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construction that's already taking place in order to get OARNet," she said.

OARNet is the networking division of the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

Gahanna will partner with New Albany on the project, splitting the costs with the village.

Both will be connected to OARNet, a network that serves Ohio research and education institutions. Both also will have fiber optic network that connects to the Columbus Fiber Net (CFN).

The contract includes provisions to cover the costs of materials and is not to exceed \$8,690. It also includes a one-time fee of \$23,742 to help with construction costs, costs to administer the agreement, and to grant access to leased space within the data center.

Another provision included in the contract pays for the connection between CFN and American Electric Power poles and is not to exceed \$10,000.

New Albany will pay for its portion through a \$250,000 grant it received from the Ohio Board of Regents. The grant was meant to help the village connect to OARNet and OSC, Chrysler said.

"The nice thing about this is we are getting a great project for a much lower cost than we had anticipated," she said.

When it comes to leftover grant money, the Board of Regents will allow any additional money to be used toward costs associated with New Albany's fiber optic network.

"The thought behind that is in order to see the money, we had to invest significantly in our own infrastructure in order to get to the point where we could make that connection, and they assumed that would be part of the process," Chrysler said.

During a meeting Jan. 20, Council approved the appropriation of \$1.37 million to enhance the village's fiber optic network.

Construction on setting up the network begins next week. Officials expect construction to be completed this fall, Chrysler said after the meeting.

In other news, Finance Director James Nicholson told council the village received a grant for \$19,735 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse costs the village incurred during September's severe windstorm.

The funds were added to the general fund and will help cover employee overtime costs and damages.

In other business, the village's Community Events Board asked Councilman Glyde Marsh to serve as grand marshal in the community's Fourth of July parade. Marsh committed.