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Consultant discusses broadband study with local officials

Hoopeston and Rossville officials on Wednesday heard of the need for a study about broadband communications.

Alan Kraus of Broadband Development 3, a Park Ridge information technology consulting firm, met with members of the Hoopeston City Council and Rossville Mayor Terry Prillaman to discuss how broadband is helping communities.

Broadband is a way of digitally transmitting information not only to and from the internet but among local sites, as well.

Using broadband, which can include wireless

internet connectivity, may help attract businesses to communities, Kraus said, adding that firms used to ask about location and utilities now assume cities have those things and instead ask whether the firms will "be able to connect to the world" with high-speed internet.

A study would cost \$25,000. Whether the city would be able to afford to implement the results of the study is unknown. The cost of adding broadband was not discussed but Mayor Chalmers Flint indicated it might be expensive. "I asked Alan to be her knowing we probably can't afford it," Flint said.

Broadband Development 3 has submitted a proposal to the city but details of it were not discussed.



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