

## **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Charlemont Town Hall**

**ATTENDING: Doug White, Trevor Mackie, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker**

**MISSING: Mary Ellen Banks, Ken Hall, Bill Tucci**

**Meeting called to order: 6:07**

- 1. Circulated card for the town administrator**
- 2. Approval of minutes from 12/18/2018**
  - a. ACTION TAKEN: Minutes approved - unanimously with one abstention
- 3. Selectboard Items**
  - a. Withdrawal from WiredWest - officially sent a letter
  - b. Financial impact - when do we need to borrow. Trevor indicated at least a year out. We have enough to get to and through make-ready.
    - i. Next action is to work on a budget for borrowing dates and cash flow. Perhaps a meeting preparing for the financial application.
  - c. Rec. Tax - Seems unlikely to go through
- 4. Follow up of Action Items to begin Make-Ready**
  - a. Phase 3 of the WG&E Contract was affirmed by both sides.**
    - i. Next action is to get a formal acknowledgement of this agreement for the town records and the MLP manager.
  - b. Utility pole attachment contracts**
    - i. Verizon - contract reviewed and approved by town council. Terrance Tolland is our contact.
      1. Two signed copies with the "other things"
        - a. Assurance Accord form - statement from the insurance company that the town has a certain level of insurance.

- b. Surety Bond - Kathy goes to MIAA and MIAA writes the bond for \$300,000. Next Action Trevor will follow up with Kathy.
  - ii. National Grid - Amy Sullivan is our contract at Grid. She is checking and seeing if they will waive the 4M level of insurance. Next action: Bob will follow up with Amy Sullivan.
    - 1. Itemized amounts / pole - Grid says we can't get this and Bill Ennen thinks the same. Recommends that we withdraw this request.
      - a. ACTION TAKEN: Recommend to withdraw this request from the contract. Unanimous.
    - 2. Reduce the amount of needed insurance
    - 3. Term of the contract longer than 5 years
    - 4. Inspections might be waived in our contract.
    - 5. Sharing Osmose data with WG&E so that the order of the applications could be right the first time.
- c. **Permit process for railroad crossings**
  - i. WG&E flagged this as a long lead time item.
  - ii. Not a priority - when is this needed. Bid time to reraise.

## **2. Status of the NEE**

- a. Meeting set up WG&E Engineers will come to look at the space January 22 at 9AM.
- b. Access to the basement. Request that they approve basement access for the construction and maintenance of the network. Next action, Trevor will follow up with the Selectboard.
- c. Pictures of the "huts" from other town are up on Google Drive from Alford, Mount Washington, Otis, and Plainfield.
- d. Information Doug collected from Alford. He will type this up and put this into Drive.
- e. HVAC contractor should go on the Help Wanted list. Small unit could go outdoors.

- f. Ask WG&E if adding the NEE construction in the big bid is cost effective. Doug will follow up with the cost/ benefit analysis. Timing might not work. Hope to have the NEE complete prior to the contract award.

**5. CDBG Update**

- a. Cheryl will follow up with Mark Southard re: whether broadband connections to low income homes can be included a grant.

**6. Wired West Refunds**

- a. 10-15/ week will be processed.
- b. Some people have gotten money back.
- c. Trevor 50 more in two weeks.
- d. Next Trevor & Cheryl will coordinate on record keeping.

**7. Any other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours in advance of meeting**

**a. ABM**

- i. Opportunity Zone conversations
- ii. Potential new development for town

**b. Update from other towns**

- i. Plainfield make-ready is underway. Considering paying for the first \$2500 of the drop, additional \$375 if you take service. All debt service on taxes. White Mountain cable is awarded the build contract.
- ii. Ashfield. Discuss WG&E as ISP/ Network operator? Ashfield has not gotten any of these back.
- iii. Shutesbury is looking at a \$85 price point.

**c. Volunteer coordination**

- i. Cheryl will coordinate
- ii. Keep eyes on the most important items. Don't allow this to overshadow the things we need to complete.

**d. Charlemont, Heath, Colrain and Leyden**

- i. **Intertown connections** - Colrain as a underground connection might be changed to overland. Colrain might pay for a cost evaluation. Who will put in the pole applications if we go overland?
  - 1. Next action: Status of the Charlemont/ Colrain interconnect?

**e. Bill Ennen Meeting**

- i. Bill Ennen is in town on 9 AM. We want to review the special cases with Bill in order to see the decisions we are making based on our design. Bill cannot make a decision but can consult on areas likely to raise concerns.
  - 1. Johnson Rd.
  - 2. Hawk Hill Rd.
  - 3. Maxwell Rd.
  - 4. Heath Stage Terrace
  - 5. Route 2 behind homes, show him the route

**8. Next actions**

- a. Prep and meet with Bill Ennen
- b. Pole applications open items
- c. NEE open items
- d. Colrain Connection clarification

Next meeting; January 30, 2019 at 6PM

Meeting adjourned 8:40 PM.



