

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Charlemont Town Hall

ATTENDING: Doug White, Bob Handsaker, Ken Hall, Cheryl Handsaker

MISSING: Mary Ellen Banks, Bill Tucci, Trevor Mackie

1. Approval of minutes from 8/26/2019

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Minutes approved unanimously, with one abstention.

2. Status of NEE

- a. Lock appears to be installed on the bulkhead. Bob & Trevor will request the key/ combination.

3. Status of Make-Ready

- a. Procurement of roadway conduit on Hawk Hill Rd. and Heath Stage Terrace
 - i. Residents have been informed of the ongoing procurement
 - ii. Spot checked contractors and they have received the bid docs
- b. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. Reviewed final procurement documents
 - 1. Corrected issues
 - 2. Will be posted today
 - ii. Abutter easements are registered at the Registry of Deeds
- c. Railroads
 - i. Long Bridge - still waiting on WG&E to discuss with National Grid
 - ii. South River Rd - PVC will do the walkout as the next step.
 - iii. Tower Rd - First draft of a petition from the MLP based on the petition on National Grid. Ready for review.
 - 1. Carlene will generate the list of abutters within 300'.
 - iv. West Hawley Rd. residence - Nokia uses proprietary protocols. Place a regular ONT on the pole to allow for support and troubleshooting. DC power is required for ONT.
 - v. Decide to use Eagle One for railroad applications once the plan for poles in place.

- d. All 16 applications are in back with estimated make-ready now from Verizon. 15 of 16 have budget “true up” and have been approved by WG&E. Payment for these applications is coming in at approximately \$396,000.
- e. Three more applications back from National Grid with 6 of 16 application in. Running total is \$191,000.
- f. Once all applications are in, we will have an estimated completion date for completion.
- g. Total of make-ready is already exceeded. Advance can be made at 75% of estimated make-ready. Borrowing will need to be readied for the amount that is not covered.
 - i. Meeting with Unibank scheduled for Weds, Sept 4.
 - ii. Finance Committee will be looped in once we have the Unibank information. Amy Wales will schedule this.
 - iii. Status of ReConnect Grant
 - 1. Schedule USDA for helping us with financial.
 - 2. Invite Christine Kimball of Hawley to a future meeting. Cheryl will check on Christine’s availability.

4. Status of Distribution Network

- a. No new information available.

5. Continue Drop Policy Discussion

- a. Tri-Wire information was provided from WG&E. This can inform our drop policy. Committee will review these documents.

6. Communication

- a. Select Board status update
 - i. Reviewed Bob’s draft status update
- b. Select Board Agenda
 - i. Tower Rd pole hearing thanks
 - ii. Budget financing/ borrowing update
 - iii. Exterior procurement update

7. Status of Wired West Refunds

- a. Emails have gone out to valid addresses.

- b. Phone call volunteers would be welcome to contact remaining folks. Ken has agreed to make some calls.
- 8. Status of additional funding sources**
- a. New round of funding will be made available at the end of the year.
 - b. Check on the award date for ReConnect.
- 9. Any other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours in advance of meeting**

Next meeting, Sept 9 @ 6PM in the Tyler Memorial Library.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35PM