

## **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

**May 18, 2020 @ 6PM, Meeting was conducted via conference call.**

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

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

### **1. Approve Meeting Notes from 5/11/2020**

- a. Minutes approved unanimously. (Doug=yes, Trevor=yes, Bob=yes, Cheryl=yes)

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

- a. Update on Construction
  - i. Will bury the lines coolant/ electrical
  - ii. Existing piping exposed by the fire alarm panel will be enclosed in a chase.
  - iii. Outside of the unit has a thaw function so it will not freeze.
  - iv. Condensate interior is a pump so it will pump up to the elevation.
  - v. If the power goes out, the temperature should hold.
  - vi. Order water detector for floor of the room
  - vii. Find something that will provide a work surface for the folding desk.
- b. Timeline on the construction completion is within the next couple of week

### **3. Status of Make-Ready**

- a. Railroads
  - i. Long Bridge
    - 1. Changes for the application have been returned from NG and WG&E approved these. Grid to send updated B2 to Charlemont.
  - ii. Tower Road
    - 1. Status of the WG&E IGA for pole placement - Estimate from WG&E has been received. Approximately \$16,435, ledge not included. Work should not begin until after July 1, with Charlemont approval.
  - iii. West Hawley Road residence
    - 1. No update. Try to get a solution before town meeting.
- b. Town Hall Exterior
- c. Utility pole
  - i. Add up all the licenses we have received and see what remains open.
- d. Verizon make-ready appears to be progressing 'opportunistically' not mobilized but moving ahead as they have time available. Good news!

#### **4. Status of Distribution Network**

- a. Path preparation status
  - i. Heath Stage Terrace, Hawk Hill Rd., Warner Hill Rd. path preparation procurement closes this Friday, May 22 at noon.
  - ii. Calling local contractors to encourage a bid for the path prep projects
    - 1. Danek Excavating
    - 2. Hillman Brothers
    - 3. JS Rae
- b. Status of edge cases
  - i. Rowe IRUs - Still no news, with the attorney.

#### **5. Insurance Update**

- a. MIIA rep gave us a quote for the NEE Equipment ~\$1000 on the town's existing policy.
- b. MIIA will get back to us with a quote for the remaining network

#### **6. Drops**

- a. PPU Report review
  - i. Go through the PPU report to check financial modeling.
  - ii. Check MDU handling in the drop policy, based on units or residences.
  - iii. People with long aerial installations have gone down, MDUs and long underground are coming up as more expensive.

#### **7. Project Finance Update**

- a. Accounting decision
  - i. Long discussion about accounting methods with the Select Board.
  - ii. Follow up meeting was suggested but could not be scheduled.
  - iii. List of questions to be answered should be provided prior to any next meeting
  - iv. Sample warrant articles have been drafted and sent for Select Board review
- b. Budget
  - i. Draft budget has been completed although it will evolve as conditions change
  - ii. Projecting a small deficit which will likely need some short-term borrowing to cover the end of the year.
- c. Status of additional funding sources
  - i. Exploring additional COVID-19 related funding.
    - 1. Cheryl has reached out to Christine Kimball.

#### **8. ISP Discussion**

- a. Next action is to collect questions for WG&E.

#### **9. Project Schedule Update**

- a. Are we ready to move ahead if Verizon comes in earlier than expected?
  - i. Poised on most things, the sign-up campaign would need to be accelerated.

#### **10. Communication Notes**

- a. Wired West closure
- b. Senator Hines' office reached out to see if there is any way to accelerate the build.
- c. Contact from City Councillor from Waltham. Trevor will reach out.

#### **11. Select Board agenda**

- a. Bid opening
- b. IGA
- c. Generator account
- d. NEE update
- e. Update on town hall exterior, National Grid should restore first, then Danek if there is more remaining. Level the area around the vault.

Next meeting, Tuesday, May 26 @ 6PM

Adjourned 7:20 pm