

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker , Trevor Mackie, Doug White, Valentine Reid, and Cheryl Handsaker

MISSING: Ken Hall, Mary Ellen Banks

1. Approve Meeting Notes from 9/14/2020

- a. Minutes approved
 - i. Trevor - yes, Cheryl-yes, Bob-yes, Doug - yes, Valentine - abstain

2. Status of Make-Ready

- a. General
 - i. 2 more Verizon applications arrived since last week, 6 of 15
- b. Long Bridge
 - i. Questions from PanAm - sent to Dave Thomas and information. Span length and pole numbers. Bob is in contact.
- c. Tower Road
 - i. Quote from Ben Niles is the lowest bid at \$5400, need to modify
 - 1. Trevor discussed SOW and will help explain.
 - ii. Quote from Lanoue at \$7200
 - iii. Contract award will be clarified by Select Board.
- d. West Hawley Road residence
 - i. National Grid has created a work order to give us an estimate for unmetered service. Mike Tatro is the designer on this one.
 - ii. Could they be reached by the Hawley plan?
- e. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. Doug confirmed that Danek Excavating will complete at the town hall while active in Charlemont.
- f. Heath Stage Terrace
 - i. No update.
- g. Town Hall Conduit
 - i. Responsiveness regarding
- h. Hawk Hill Rd
 - i. National Grid is preparing to file an application with the Con Com. Bob has been in touch with Grid to let them know nothing is scheduled.
- i. Warner Hill Rd.
 - i. Danek Excavating has begun. Ledge has not been an issue crossing the road.
 - ii. Sand bedding will be in place
 - iii. Culvert crossings will have a 2-3' sleeve under the culverts. He is at the first culvert

- iv. We have been checking on Warner Hill Rd. Caution tape, has this been deployed? Dave dropped off the tracer wire. Has Gordie been up to inspect?
- v. Second culvert will be replaced for the Gordon Hathaway. He is going to keep track of the hours and charge these separately.
- vi. Doug completed the easement paperwork and these have been sent to town counsel. Bob spoke with one abutter so far and all are OK.
- vii. Test holes look like ledge, looks like we need to drill. Contracting with the group that will have capacity to set in the ledge. WG&E will get this moving this week.

3. ISP Contact

- a. Update on contract and amendment draft
 - i. No update.

4. Fairground Hotspot

5. Drops

- a. Update on one-page document
 - i. Cheryl will send Val the idea behind the one-pager
- b. Material storage
 - i. Cheryl and Bob's cabin area - inaccessible in winter.
 - ii. Trevor will ask about storing it in front of his trailer on JS Rae.
- c. Rick King call regarding self-install of conduit. Check the design and confirm if this is the best path for the town and the homeowner. Trevor will be in touch again.
- d. Another request has been put on hold for additional condit.
- e. Trevor has written a policy on self-installation. Committee to review.

6. Presubscription Prep

- a. Review privacy policy concerns in the WG&E terms.

7. Project Finance Update

- a. 2021 budget update
 - i. Assume the borrowing will move forward at end of October
 - ii. Bob will take another pass at the budget for town meeting.
- b. Status of additional funding sources
 - i. Non-governmental sources
 - 1. Val is following up with a state agency to see if municipalities qualify for some non-governmental funding sources.
 - ii. CARES Act Funding
 - 1. Bill Ennen had proactively reached out to the towns. Charlemont has an 'allocation' of COVID funding of \$109,000. Bob reached out to the Select Board to see if this is known.
 - 2. Plainfield is looking at 'special local network' for remote learning - a single fiber connection.
 - 3. Ashfield is looking at subsidizing a buildout of low income funding.
 - 4. Charlemont could look at passive electronics for this allocation.

iii. RBDG Grant

1. Are we ready to order the equipment. Slightly higher for the active electronics. Perhaps buy a single line card unit for up to 288. 70% take rate will bring us to 100%. Are there other things that are take rate dependent.
 - a. Val will review the BOM to see if we can get us to 70%.
 - b. RDBG is a 50% match.

iv. Community Compact IT Grant

1. The Select Board is reaching out to see if there is a broadband grant. Typically efficiency and transparency related. Up to \$200,000 but in the past we have taken a smaller piece.

8. Project Schedule Update

9. Communication Notes

a. ATM prep

- i. State of Broadband - Val to write up and we'll post prior to town meeting.
- ii. Enterprise Fund Accounting - article is coming out
- iii. Why isn't my road being done when the others?

Next meeting September 28 @ 6PM