

## **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

**ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Lora Fulton, Trevor Mackie, Cheryl Handsaker**

**MISSING: Doug White, Ken Hall**

### **1. Approve Meeting Notes from 3/23/2023**

- a. ACTION TAKEN: Motion by Trevor, seconded by Lora. Lora: yes, Trevor: abstain, Cheryl: yes, Mary Ellen: yes, Bob - yes

### **2. Operations**

- a. Long-term contract update
  - i. Select Board voted in support of the 5-year contract. Stable pricing for the next 5 years.
- b. Northern Ring Resiliency Design Update
  - i. Testing beginning in April and deployment in May.
- c. Budget and Financing
  - i. Good budget and ready for the town.
  - ii. Financing plan seems like it's in a good place. 15 year financing is very important.
  - iii. Consider steps for a spring/ summer sign-up campaign.
  - iv. Town Meeting Preparation?
    - 1. Check if Ken is prepared to present the budget, good financial shape, setting aside reserves
    - 2. Pull together a handout for ATM
      - a. Add a plume box update?
- d. Plume box policies
  - i. No new plume boxes.
  - ii. Marketing email from late March includes promotion of these boxes
  - iii. Committee should come prepared to discuss and propose a policy for discussion with WCF
    - 1. Consider adding a script indicating that the town does not support the use of these boxes.
    - 2. Inform the customer that they have other choices.
    - 3. We promised no rental fees.
    - 4. Can we send an email indicating that this is optional and can be found differently?

### **3. Any other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

- a. Changes at WCF
  - i. WCF Team updates with Chris LaVertu leaving the organization.
  - ii. ITG is no longer available to work with Whip City Fiber and Sertex will take on the emergency restoration contracts as a new partner.
- b. Storm availability to access MEMA looks like this will not be possible due to the affected area.
- c. Farewell and gratitude for Trevor's contribution. He's been amazing!!

d. Items for future consideration

- i. Reorganize the Broadband Committee
- ii. Sign up campaign for broadband
- iii. Digital Equity work that will be coming in the future more important as we move ahead
  1. Looking at the ACP rates in W. Mass which are below average.
  2. We've been awarded the planning grant with Northfield, Colrain and Orange.

Next meeting: May 9 @ 7PM

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM ACTION TAKEN: **Motion by Trevor**, seconded by Lora. Lora: yes, Trevor: yes, Cheryl: yes, Mary Ellen: yes, Bob - yes