

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

This meeting was conducted via telephone conference call.

ATTENDING: Trevor Mackie, Cheryl Handsaker, Doug White, Mary Ellen Banks & Bob Handsaker

MISSING: Ken Hall, Bill Tucci

1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 3/30/2020

a. ACTION TAKEN: Minutes approved as amended.

i. Trevor-yes, Mary Ellen-yes, Doug-yes, Cheryl-yes, Bob-yes

2. Status of NEE

a. Update on Construction Progress

i. Email requested for an extension but Obear has not been in touch.

3. Status of Make-Ready

a. Railroads

i. Long Bridge

1. Tom Broderick sent a hand drawn map. Can we use that?

2. Insurance implications - Doug has spoken with Mike Garrold

a. Don't need the RR protective insurance - not needed as this is provided by the contractor during construction.

b. Standard clause with the RR exclusion removed. MIAA will not remove the clause (waiver subrogation).

c. If this is needed, we would need to go to an outside insurer, estimated at other towns at \$17,000 annually.

d. Our town insurance is not enough.

e. Will the RR waive the insurance requirements (RR exclusion and total insurance value)? Bob will ask.

4. Status of Distribution Network

a. Status of the distribution network construction procurement

i. Discussion of Bids

1. Still no recommendation from WG&E

2. Concern on timeline - critical to move this forward.

b. Status of edge cases

i. Rowe

1. Rowe IRUs are drafted. Doug and Trevor will review.

2. Once reviewed, Bob will ask for legal review.

5. ISP Discussion

a. Any reason not to choose WG&E?

i. Pros

1. CAF II
2. Serve our neighbors
3. Drop contractor pricing
4. They have been doing this for a long time and have determined the best way forward. Try them for the first 3 years as a contract.

ii. Cons

1. Would we need a retainer for them to serve as our Network Operator?

iii. Unknown

1. Contract period
2. Network Operator

iv. ACTION TAKEN: The Broadband Committee recommends the selection of WG&E as our ISP and Network Operator for an initial 3-year contract period contingent upon the satisfactory answers regarding Network Operations and contract period.

1. Trevor- yes, Mary Ellen- yes, Doug - yes,, Cheryl - yes, Bob- yes

6. Project Schedule Update

a. Project plan review

7. Project Finance Update

a. Financing Conversation

i. Budget for next year is incomplete, but there remains a lot of unknowns.

1. More detail and estimates driven from actual pricing or from other towns.
2. Timing of pole leases, pole bonds, insurance.
3. Insurance across the board is important - physical insurance? Liability? Umbrella policy?

a. Network insurance

b. Hut electronics - rider on the town insurance or via MIAA/ PURMA

c. Town owed poles?

d. Anything we're missing?

b. Status of additional funding sources

i. Exploring additional COVID-19 related funding.

Next meeting: Monday, April 13 @ 6PM

Adjourned 8:20 pm