

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 26, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Meeting held via conference call

ATTENDING: Mary Ellen Banks, Doug White, Cheryl Handsaker, Bob Handsaker

MISSING: Ken Hall, Bill Tucci, Trevor Mackie

1. Approve Minutes and Meeting Notes from 5/18/2020

- a. **ACTION TAKEN:** Approved unanimously, Doug -yes, Mary Ellen- abstain, Bob- yes, Cheryl - yes

2. Status of NEE

- a. Update on Construction - no update.

3. Status of Make-Ready

- a. Long Bridge
 - i. Status of B2
 1. Approved by WG&E, waiting on an invoice
 - ii. Timeline for construction
 1. No changes to the make-ready
- b. Tower Road
 - i. Status of the WG&E IGA for pole placement - Signed agreement in place.
- c. West Hawley Road residence
 - i. Cheryl will reach out to colleagues to move a design.
- d. Town Hall Exterior
 - i. No update.

4. Status of Distribution Network

- a. Path preparation status (Heath Stage Terrace, Hawk Hill Rd., Warner Hill Rd.)
 - i. Update on bid opening - Don't have the fully vetted bid list returned from WG&E. Low bid for Hawk Hill Rd., Warner Hill Rd. came in on budget. Heath Stage Terrace low bid came in over our anticipated budget.
 1. Select Board meeting: Bob is going to go back to WG&E regarding the estimate they provided to see if we can reduce the cost in different ways.
 2. Select Board will reach out to Heath Stage Terrace to reassess people's interest in taking service.
- b. Status of edge cases

- i. Rowe IRUs - Both towns have agreed shared counsel can review the contract.

5. Insurance Update

- a. No update.

6. Drops

- a. PPU Report review

- i. Evie Locke has agreed to check on this road to review the estimate basis.
- ii. Updated PPU reports will be updated
 - 1. Grid does not pay for DigSafe and this would need to be included.
 - 2. Consultation is not included in the PPR report but other towns have scheduled this fee. Consultation is the best estimate we will get. Town will need to be in communication between contractor and homeowner.
 - 3. MDUs are considered completely separate residence. Determine if there are savings to be had if we do something hourly vs fixed unit bid.
 - 4. Still need to review drop policy for change.

7. Project Finance Update

- a. Accounting method decision

- i. Select Board accepted the Enterprise Fund accounting method recommendation.
May modify the warrant article if approved by town counsel.

- b. 2021 budget update

- i. Working with Lynn and Amy on financing planning.

- c. Status of additional funding sources

- i. Status of additional COVID-19 related funding.
 - 1. DLT funding cannot be used for our drops or distribution network.
 - 2. HEROES act, new stimulus package.
 - 3. Pursuing an EDA opportunity
- ii. What can people do to save money?
- iii. What could we do to speed things up?

8. ISP Discussion

- a. Preliminary conversations regarding ISP questions

- i. Reviewed Bob's list
- ii. Bob will follow will follow up with WG&E

9. Project Schedule Update

- a. Project plan review

- i. Sign up campaign next actions
- ii. Drop policy one pager for town meeting

1. Cheryl will reach out to Mary Malrose and/ or Carla LaGrassa to help with putting together a one-pager
2. Bob will push on Chris LaVertu for an updated PPR report
3. Bob will create a clean PDU report, sanitized version of the PPR reports.

10. Communication Notes

- a. Wired West closure - email received.

11. Utility assessor

- a. Cheryl spoke with Alice in Colrain about possible impacts to fiber broadband. She indicated that although some fees have likely gone up, there is a net win for the towns she is working with. She also indicated that since there would be no taxable revenue from a town-owned utility, this would not likely be appraised.

Next meeting, Monday, June 1 @ 6PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm