

## **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

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

**MISSING:** Ken Hall

**GUEST:** Lora Fulton

### **1. Approve Meeting Notes from 10/20/2022**

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

### **2. Operations**

- a. Consideration of [long-term ISP](#) contract with WCF and these [rates](#)
- b. We will consider a short-term contract but not the 10 year one, which is too long.

### **3. Planning Board Update on New Construction**

- a. New construction in housing subdivisions should include broadband.
  - i. If you build a new road, there are town requirements that apply, such as a requirement to pay to put in streetlights.
  - ii. In that fashion, broadband should be included in the subdivision plan and pay for the inclusion. Suggest that we ask the developer to extend the distribution network along the roads, and each residence would pay for installation connections.
  - iii. How would we pay for the cost of extending / improving the capacity of the distribution network?
    1. This is similar to a water system? Is there a general way they handle this?
    2. Does the town want to subsidize some services to encourage building?
  - iv. Bob will be meeting with the Planning Board on November 17th.

### **4. Drops**

- a. 5 different drops in-flight
- b. 7 cold drops expected to be completed next week
- c. 151 W. Hawley Rd - enclosure and meter expected in the next couple

### **5. Distribution Network**

- a. Resiliency Update
  - i. Plan to put VOIP into the first build
  - ii. MBI rollout 10GB connection at a higher cost than other solutions
  - iii. The towns will need to decide how to move forward.
  - iv. Bob will forward the spreadsheet on backhaul costs.
- b. Hub Monitoring / Emergency Response Update
  - i. EMD should be checked in with the hub response plan

### **6. Commercial Pricing**

- a. Commercial Pricing was audited and now all businesses are being charged the amount agreed to in advance as a Large Business/ Redistribution service level.
- b. Some large businesses are now online.

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

- a. Cost to Complete calculations are still in progress.
- b. ARPA funds have been allocated.
- c. Closed the short-term notes and paid down \$850,000. Current debt is \$950,000 at 3.93% for a 1 year short-term bond.
- d. Consider acknowledging Greenfield Cooperative Bank for stepping up.
- e. Long-term financing is still unknown. Hopefully this will be lower once this total payment.
- f. Minimum payment should be less than projected because of how much has been paid down already.
- g. Expected construction costs still outstanding
  - i. 151 W. Hawley Rd
  - ii. Any remaining drop costs

#### 8. **Subscription Campaign**

- a. [Subscription Update](#)
- b. Time to retire the subscriber dashboard? (yes)

#### 9. **Communication / Outreach**

- a. Focus for the public information - Network financing and feature GCB. Coming to the end of the drops.
- b. Consider a press release to celebrate
- c. The large signs have been removed from the east end of town.

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

- a. Consider filling the empty seat on the broadband committee

Next meeting, Thursday, December 1, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM