

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Lora Fulton, Cheryl Handsaker

MISSING: Doug White, Ken Hall

1. Approve Meeting Notes from [6/1/2023](#)

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

2. Construction

- a. Northern Ring Resiliency Update
 - i. Multiple backhauls are now in place. Yay!
 - ii. Third connection through Local Linx is being explored.
 - iii. New Local Links then connection could be held by Charlemont or WCF.
 1. Feeling of the committee is that it would be helpful to hold the contract but if it is difficult then WCF is a fallback.
 2. No additional cost for changing the configuration from Verizon to the new Local Links connection.

3. Operations

- a. Financial Update
 - i. End of the FY has come in and it looks like we'll be \$182,000 in the black, less the contribution for the electronics replacement. This will be a net increase of approximately \$160,000 in cash reserves.
- b. Policy discussion for new distribution network construction
 - i. Some changes have been made to the original draft including the ability to change it as needed.
 - ii. Broadband is unlikely to be covered when the roads are updated.
 - iii. Committee will try to follow up on any state legislation to streamline make-ready for new builds.
 - iv. Consider a reasonable rate network extension fees. Bob will review historic values for our build and come back to the committee to make a recommendation.
 - v. Fee should be charged even if the extension is paid for from grant funds.
 - vi. MOTION TO ACCEPT the proposed drop policy amendment to use \$4300 for the fee and include language to periodically review this rate.
 1. ACTION TAKEN: Motion by Cheryl, seconded by Lora. Cheryl: yes, Mary Ellen: yes, Bob - yes, Lora-yes
- c. Review [Plume box policy](#)
 - i. Two goals for this policy as proposed.
 1. Communicate with WCF our concerns about the current approach.
 2. Suggest customer education related to alternatives.
 - ii. Perhaps generate an FAQ related to plume boxes - what they are and how they help.
 - iii. Form items for WCF communication following the development of an FAQ.
- d. Digital Equity: Next steps

- i. Lora will send documents out.
- e. Stamper box companies
 - i. Do we want to purchase a stamper box?
 - ii. Let's see how many boxes we'd need to do performance monitoring. Cost/ year \$300/ year this will be confirmed?
 - iii. Review notes and set up a meeting with the stamper box company.

Next meeting, August 8 @ 6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 PM