

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6PM

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Amy Wales

MISSING: Ken Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:01.

1. Review and approve [meeting notes from 2/12/2026](#)

- a. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES from 2/12/2026. Moved by Amy, seconded by Mary Ellen.**
 - i. Approved unanimously.

2. [Budget Review](#)

a. [Changes to the draft budget \(new file\)](#)

- i. Added the indirect costs for the Treasurer
- ii. Added the indirect costs associated with the Town Administrator
- iii. Added lines for installations, installation subsidies with an offset
- iv. **MOTION: Approve the proposed budget for FY 27.** Moved by Amy, seconded by Mary Ellen.
 - 1. Approved unanimously.

- b. [Memorandum of Understanding for Indirect Costs](#) - Costs that are present in the town general fund and reimbursed by the town from the Broadband Enterprise Fund to be reviewed annually.**

- i. MOTION: Approve Memorandum of Understanding as presented in the meeting.** Moved by Cheryl, seconded by Mary Ellen.
 - 1. Approved unanimously.

c. [Changes to the Drop Policy](#)

- i. MLP Manager will ask the Selectboard to affirm the \$200 increase recommended by the Broadband Committee in the 2/12/26 meeting contingent on the approval of the budget at town meeting.

d. [Alignment of Accounts](#)

- i. Bob and Amy will meet to discuss aligning the chart of accounts to the town budget items.

3. Review [WGE rideout proposal for 2026](#) and make recommendation

- a. Split between 'hut check' and a rideout to access.
- b. MOTION: Approve hut maintenance only.** Moved by Cheryl, seconded by Amy.
 - i. Approved unanimously.

4. [National Grid feeder project](#)

- a. Project is still underway.
- b. Pole relocations are no longer coming through the NJUNS.

- c. Legate Hill Rd project
 - i. Pole hearing was approved with conditions
 - ii. Town Counsel recommended that we drop the provisions from the pole hearings.
 - iii. Selectboard voted to remove the provisions in their meeting on March 1.
 - iv. Senator Mark's Office is looking for more details on these projects.
 - v. Bob has met with National Grid to discuss pole attachment regulations. There has been no update on costs.

5. Updates on pole attachment regulations

- a. DPU opened the formal rulemaking on 3/6/26. They also issued a new set of draft revisions to the regulations.
- b. Public Comment period is opening and closing in May or June.
- c. Senator Mark is an advocate for the town with DPU.
- d. Broadband Committee to consider engaging legal counsel to support the towns' interest before the DPU.
 - i. If we go forward, consider other towns that have National Grid and are bound by these regulations to support this initiative.
 - ii. Research MLP towns that have National Grid

6. Update on Digital Equity Grant

- a. Consider medical portals for early May.

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

- a. STRIPE approval is needed by the end of April if they are on AutoPay
 - i. Note sent to subscriber that need to agree to the T&Cs
 - ii. Ask for a 30 day grace period for reconnect fees, especially for this condition.
- b. Commercial Customer Audit
 - i. List of commercial customers has been requested and received from the assessors
 - ii. Cheryl and Amy will meet again to review the assessors list

MOTION: Adjourn moved by Amy, seconded by Cheryl.

- Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13PM.