

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of October 21st, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Alstead Town Offices, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602 Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#

Google meet: <https://meet.google.com/gzp-ovpr-fyf>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Kemp, Jim Howard, Chris Reitmann. Alan Kauders & Joel McCarty via Google Meet.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: N/A

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

GUESTS: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: We agree to postpone the approval of the minutes for the October 14th, 2020 meeting until next week when Mark Mastrocinque will be back.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- The Select Board has appointed us to the official Alstead Broadband Committee. The Town Clerk, Julie Bacon, has completed the paper work. The members of the Committee should meet with the Julie to get sworn-in and sign the papers. The goal is to have all members signed in by the next meeting October 28, 2020.

- Jim Howard reported that SpaceX had put another load of 66 satellites in orbit for Star link. They now have 788 satellites in orbit. They have said that once they get 800 or more satellites in orbit, they will begin the public beta testing. It is unclear the extent of the area involved in the beta testing. We are not sure if and when we might be able to be one of the testers.

- Gordon spoke with Renelle L'Huillier, who is one of the Bond Attorneys approved by the NH Municipal Bond Bank. Renelle handled the broadband bonds for Chesterfield and Walpole. She emailed Gordon a letter of agreement to be reviewed by the Select Board. Gordon met with the Select Board and reviewed with them the letter of agreement. It was noted that Renelle will require no payment for any work she does until the bonds have actually been sold. Until that time we can consult her as much as we need. She says her overall bill will be between \$5000 and \$8000. The Select Board agreed to retain her as our bond counsel. Renelle disclosed that a member of her firm is representing Consolidate Communications in a suit against the Town of Alstead alleging unfair taxes of their poles and other infrastructure. She says she is not involved in anyway with that suit but is required to disclose this other relationship. She also pointed out that she is going to represent us only for the bond application.

- The question then arises who will represent us for the contract negotiations with the selected vendor. We are going to contact other towns to find out who they used. We could possibly use the Alstead Town Counsel who is on retainer. If we need to budget money for an attorney in next year's budget, we need to figure out how much that will be and forward that request to the Town Budget Committee.
- Renelle approved of the way we are determining the portion of the town that is not served with high speed broadband internet. She indicated we should use the Comcast numbers we have received as we have done.
- Renelle sent us a list of things need to be done to prepare for a bond application. The amount of paperwork is substantial. The lists have been posted on our Google Drive. Members of the Committee are urged to look at those lists and see if they could possibly get started on some of the required paperwork.
- Gordon gave the Select Board a copy of our draft RFP. The Select Board agreed to look it over and get back to us with any suggestions prior to next week's meeting. At that meeting we will review the draft and any changes the Select Board recommends. The goal is to send out the RFP by November 1, 2020. It was suggested we look for a number of different companies to send it to. There are companies that specialize in fiber networks that could be possibilities.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Official appointment by Select Board
- II. Town Survey/Deadline is Oct. 13th
- III. Coverage Mapping
- IV. Bond Update
- V. Meetings with providers
- VI. RFP/work session

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATIONAL: From now on we will meet in the Municipal Office building

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public comments: none
- II. Next meeting Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 PM in Municipal Offices.

ACTION ITEMS:

On a motion by Jim Howard, seconded by Chris Reitmann, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:03PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Howard

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28th, 2020 at 6:30PM

These are the approved minutes of the October 21st meeting of the Alstead Broadband Committee.