

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of August 5th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Municipal Building, 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, Joe Levesque, Jim Howard, Mark Mastrocinque. Chris Rietmann by Google Meet.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: N/A

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Willey, designated citizen advisor by Marlow Select Board, by Google Meet

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

GUESTS: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of July 29th, 2020: On a motion from Jim Howard, seconded by Joe Levesque the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the July 29th meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- I. We have exceeded the maximum response on “free” Survey Monkey. Survey Monkey fee is \$75 per month. Town Survey – we have 62 responses from Survey Monkey. Some people from Walpole and Langdon filled out Survey Monkey. We will recreate the survey in Google Forms. Joe Levesque and Chris Rietmann will finalize the survey, update the URL for Google Forms and have it printed and mailed.
- II. We will schedule two public information hearings for the town. We must have a public benefit study complete to present to the Select Board.
- III. Gordon obtained updated addresses for the RFI mailing. RFI’s are ready to be mailed. RFI’s will signed by Joe Levesque and be sent via email and U.S. Mail.
- IV. Public benefit calculation – Westmoreland’s public benefit calculation has been copied to our Google Drive. We will use it as a template.
- V. Jim Howard has drafted an RFP using the Walpole RFP as a template. We need the number of premises and business for the RFP and percent of town that is presently covered by broadband. Walpole used the number of postal addresses.
- VI. We need the number of premises and business for the RFP and public benefit calculation. Walpole used the number of postal addresses.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Satellite update From Jim. SpaceX is launching another satellite on Friday. The SpaceX beta test will not occur in the Alstead area. Amazon got approval from the FCC for their system.
- II. RFI – ready to be signed and sent.
- III. Will a majority of the Select Board support the administrative costs to the town for this project? We will reach out to Dennis from Walpole and Brad from Chesterfield to get a ballpark figure of administrative costs to the town. As per Brad Roscoe the costs to the Town of Chesterfield: contract review – Town lawyer (Chesterfield’s was on retainer, probably spend about 8-10 hours reviewing contract). Bond Lawyer was about \$5 to \$6k for Chesterfield and we split the cost with Consolidated. Some of the recent Towns have gotten Consolidated to pay for it all. This included all the work for getting the Bond issued.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Miscellaneous costs/Selectboard approval/bond counsel
- II. Gordon has been in contact with Firstlight network in town/schools. Infrastructure was built out to two schools in Alstead. Firstlight is only serving businesses in Marlow at this time.
- III. WMUR story/ JoAnn Lemieux – many stories about federal money for broadband access in rural communities.
- IV. Public benefit calculation

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public comments - none
- II. Next meeting Wednesday, August 5th at 6:30 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Chris Rietmann will translate the Survey Monkey survey into Google Forms.
- Joe Levesque and Chris Rietmann will finalize the survey, update the URL for Google Forms and have it printed and mailed.
- Gordon will verify the three addresses for the RFI mailing - **done**
- Jim Howard will contact Dennis Markham to determine approximate administrative costs for the project. **Walpole’s cost was approx. \$400 for postage. Walpole’s bond counsel was paid by CCI.**

- Mark will contact Brad Roscoe and Carol Miller – **done**. **As per Brad Roscoe the costs to the Town of Chesterfield: contract review – Town lawyer (Chesterfield’s was on retainer, probably spend about 8-10 hours reviewing contract). Bond Lawyer was about \$5 to \$6k for Chesterfield and we split the cost with Consolidated. Some of the recent Towns have gotten Consolidated to pay for it all. This included all the work for getting the Bond issued.**
- Jim Howard will talk to Walpole about what companies their RFP was sent to. Sent to CCI, Comcast, Argent, Matrix & Otelco - **done**
- Jim Howard will start preparation of the RFPs – **in progress**
- Joe Levesque will sign RFI’s for emailing and U.S. Post Office mailing.

On a motion by Jim Howard and seconded by Mark Mastrocinque, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:39PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque, Secretary

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12th, 2020 at 6:30PM

These are the approved minutes of the August 5th meeting minutes.