

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 1st, 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, Chris Rietmann, Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty, Jim Howard, and Mark Mastrocinque.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT:

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Dennis Marcom from Walpole

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of June 24th, 2020: On a motion from Gordon Kemp seconded by Chris Rietmann the Committee voted to approve the minutes with the addition of ViaSat as an internet provider.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The Walpole Broadband Cmte. was comprised of a member of the Walpole Select Bd. and 5 others with a broad range of talents. Their committee acted as an advisor to the Select Board. Decisions were made by the Select Board.

Brad Roscoe of Chesterfield was a one-man operation, operating separately from the local government.

Walpole submitted an RFI & RFP to Comcast and CCI. Nothing was received from Comcast. CCI told us how many people had service and what kind of service. Walpole found that 85 percent of the town was underserved.

Walpole did not survey the town. They estimated the portion of Walpole that was underserved. A value to the town was estimated at 7-8 million dollars. Walpole feels that this is a very worthwhile project for any town to pursue.

In terms of bonding, you must demonstrate the value to the town is greater than the money you're asking for in the bond. The Walpole Town staff prepared the bonding with the Town Attorney. The user fee for the service of the 20 year bond was negotiated. The user fee in Walpole is \$7.30 per user. The sale of the bond is scheduled for July 14th to be issued in August.

RFP's submitted to 5 companies. 3 responses were received. One was from Consolidated Communications. Their proposal was deemed the best and a contract was negotiated. Consolidated was found to be easy to work with. Walpole would recommend them. The negotiated rates were the same or less than similar towns served by Consolidated. Consolidated agreed to free installation as long as the residence is within 150 feet from the pole. CCI offered high speed internet, phone and television.

CCI guaranteed that they are paying the bond regardless of how many subscribers sign up. The contract with CCI specifies that they complete the project within 2 years.

Consolidated wanted to have one contract that could be submitted to many towns.

The Walpole town attorney reviewed the contract for the Select Board.

Joe Levesque has several contacts at CCI. V.P. Rob Koester of CCI was the contact for Walpole. Jeff McIver of CCI is handling the build out. CCI will receive 3 lump-sum payments. At the beginning, midpoint and at completion of construction. At the end of the 20 year bond, Walpole will own the fiber middle miles.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Town Meeting room is booked for the ABC meetings
- Copy of the Comcast contract with Alstead is pending
- Joel did contact Brad Roscoe
- How many miles of town & state roads is pending
- Posting minutes on the Town Website is pending
- Meeting schedule should be posted on the Town Website
- Chris attempted to contact Starlink (all committee members will apply to be beta testers)
- Post card mailing cost is pending
- Minutes, agenda and future events to FB complete
- New email account & Google Drive complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Any discussion items must be emailed to the committee chair only
- Question of the town survey. The committee feels it is worthwhile in terms of involving the community and ensuring the community understands the project. Joe Levesque will determine the cost.
- Offer is open from Dave T. to speak to the committee.
- GOFERR/CARES program application was very time constrained. USDA funding deadlines have passed and their criteria is different.
- We got no response from WiValley. They claim service to Alstead.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Walpole will give us copies of the RFP, RFI & the contract with Consolidated Communications.
- Committee will come up with questions for any town survey.
- Mark will contact Carol Miller to see if she's available to speak to us.
- Mark M. and Joe L. will take part in the Monodnock Broadband Group online meeting on July 7th

On a motion by Joe Levesque and seconded by Jim Howard, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:58p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque, Secretary

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8th 2020 at 6:30P