

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of November 18th, 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, Mark Mastrocinque, Chris Reitmann & Alan Kauders via Google Meet.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: N/A

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: N/A

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:32PM

GUESTS: N/A

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: On a motion from Jim Howard seconded by Mark Mastrocinque, the minutes from the November 11th meeting are accepted and approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- I. Beta testers are getting their equipment from Starlink. Approximately 600,000 people requested to be beta testers. A Starlink app must be downloaded. The satellite antenna is aimed based on your location. According to beta testers the setup is quick & easy.
- II. Alan Kauders has been working on a cashflow projection of the user surcharge. The starting date must be adjusted to late fall of 2021. Monthly projections will be prepared. According to the New Hampshire Economic Development website, 19.8% population is below the poverty level. This will have some determination as to the number of residents who will sign up for the broadband service.
- III. We have received the following question from a potential bidder on our project. According to the terms of our RFP, we are distributing the question, and our answer, to all companies making proposals.

Question from Great Works Internet (GWI):

"The Town of Alstead is located in an area where there are funds available through the FCC's \$16 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction which is ongoing now and is anticipated to be completed by the end of November. It is a distinct possibility that some entity will be awarded RDOF funding to build a broadband network. While we are interested in responding to your RFP, it makes no sense to go through the significant effort to produce a quality response before finding out the RDOF auction results. It is likely that at least some of our competitors would make the same calculation. We believe Alstead would be best served by running an RFP process after the auction results are known. Is it possible and would you be

willing to amend your timeline to accommodate for the decision by the FCC on the RDOF awards?"

Answer:

After a review of the RDOF auction details and a review of our own timeline, the Alstead Select Board has decided to keep the terms of our RFP as is, with the deadline remaining as 11:00 AM EST, December 1, 2020. [Link to FCC 904 Auction Final Eligible Areas Map 10-20-2020.](#)

- IV. The [Bond Counsel checklist](#) is being updated with the required information.
- V. Work on designing and developing yard signs is in progress
- VI. Gordon created and distributed a [proposed FAQ](#) – the proposed FAQ will be posted on Google Docs along with the [Alstead Broadband Committee project update](#).
- VII. Scheduling public hearings - we must hold two hearings to explain the public benefit to the town in addition to a third hearing regarding the bond issue. This is required by the State and has specific requirements. We will consider piggy backing onto Select Board meetings. The schedule will be firmed up in December.

OLD BUSINESS/PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS:

- I. Satellite update from Jim
- II. Paperwork requirements for bond
- III. RFP update from Gordon
- IV. Voter outreach/Yard Signs – Chris
- V. Work on FAQ
- VI. Public Hearings Schedule

NEW BUSINESS:

INFORMATIONAL:

OTHER ITEMS:

- I. Public Comments: None
- II. Next meeting is Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30 PM in Municipal Offices.

ACTION ITEMS:

- I. See documentation for [bond counsel checklist](#).
- II. Chris Reitmann is designing and developing yard signs – in progress
- III. Alan Kauders is preparing a monthly cashflow projection of the user surcharge – in progress

On a motion by Jim Howard, seconded by Chris Reitmann, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:17PM.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Mastrocinque

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th, 2020 at 6:30PM

These are the approved minutes of the November 18th, 2020 meeting of the Alstead Broadband Committee meeting.