

Selectmen Minutes

Date: December 1, 2021 @ 4:30pm

OPEN MEETING: Dick opened meeting at 4:30pm

ATTENDANCE: Dick, Richard P, Jon, Sue, Emily-LC News, Peter Gabbe, Evan Goodkowsky, Kendra Jo Grindle-Island Institute, Matthew Hanly-Bremen Broadband, Nate House, Marianne Pinkham, Mary Ellen Barnes-LC Regional Planning Committee, Marty Welt.

ABSENT:

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

ACCEPT MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING: Richard P motion to accept minutes from last meeting, Jon second the motion, no further discussion, all in favor, so moved

APPROVE WARRANT: 25—Richard P motion to approve W25 as submitted, Jon second the motion, no further discussion, all in favor, so moved.

SIGN WARRANT- 24— All 3 Selectmen signed W24

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Peter Gabbe- 30-minute Broadband committee update & presentation.** —Peter handed out a presentation on behalf of the broadband committee (please see attached document) He said that all the work they have done so far has been done at no cost. He also gave Sue Isabel (Town Clerk) the Straw Poll Petition with Signatures from Nobleboro Residents for the Broadband Connectivity for the Town's Records. (287 signatures)
 - Other Speakers on behalf of Broadband and the importance of giving residents access were Kendra, Mary Ellen & Matthew- The discussion was on the infrastructure expansion to fiber and how seven towns in the Lincoln County area have come or are coming together and moving forward with getting access to the residents. Mary Ellen mention how they are working on digital equity and network design.
 - Dick wanted to know if the committee is working on mapping now? Peter- we are working on Preliminary mapping now & the survey will be next to figure out core issues and to get high response. Richard P-will you be ready will all the information for the town meeting to vote or this? Peter- yes, we are trying to work toward that, and we hope the survey will be done by end of February. The preliminary mapping should be done by then, the advanced mapping probably not. We are working with a multi-tier with Tidewater and Spectrum. Kendra-she wanted us to know that there is a 6-month infrastructure for the grants. Kendra wanted everyone to know that if you are looking for help in support and funds to please contact her.
- **Selectmen to review and approve FD bill of \$3960 Fail Safe Hose Testing Invoice.** Jon motion to approve appropriating the \$3960 to Fail Safe Hose Testing, Richard second the motion, no further discussion, all in favor, so moved. We will add this to W25.
- **Richard P to discuss Comprehensive Plan costs and remaking of Maps.** Richard wanted input or mapping and public hearing and the cost of the mapping is still unknown right now. Per Richard, the mapping upgrade is a requirement by the State to get plan approval and then we will see if we need more money or not. Our goal is to get Comp Plan approved. Marianne said the plan is to get the State to do a first review before we have a Public hearing to see what changes should or can be done.
- **Selectmen to discuss Town Meeting-open town meeting vs referendum election?** Dick suggested we have open town meeting this year. Richard and Jon agreed, so we will have an Open Town Meeting on 3/19 and 3/18 will be voting.
- **Set a date for Town Meeting.** March 18th & March 19th

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- **Budget Committee Members-** we need three tentative new ones because of extension of last years (2021) as we did not have Open Town Meeting to vote anyone in. We also have three terms are up in 2022—Dick to call Dale. Sue will call the committee members we extended from last years' committee and see if they will help out this year until Open Town Meeting where we can appoint new members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Jon- Update on possible new location for new Air Compressor for FD-** *Jon said he looked thru the paperwork Richard G sent everyone and could not find anything that states we cannot change the place where the compressor is going. Jon did leave 2 messages for the person in charge at FEMA about moving the location. Jon was wondering if we received an estimate on building a small building to house the compressor, Sue did not receive one.*
- **ARPA Funds-- Any more discussion/information—***no further discussion and no additions to list at of yet.*
- **Nomination Papers will be available December 7, 2021, due back by January 17, 2022**
1-position for Selectmen, Assessor, Overseer of the Poor, & Fish Committee
1-position for Trustee of Salt Bay Sanitary District
2-School Board Committee Member
- **Selectmen Meeting change-Tuesday, December 28th 4:30pm instead of Wednesday the 29th --** *la one of the years 2021.*
- **Richard P.-** *when will we start meeting to discuss the Budget. Dick said he will work on that and asked Sue to print out budget paperwork for the Selectmen to start reviewing.*

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Town of Nobleboro & Waldoboro joining forces on Duck Puddle Rd and the flooding-** **Tabled.**
- **Executive Session:** *in pursuant to 1 MRSA par 405 (6)(A) Personnel –Dick motion to go into executive session at 5:25. Jon motion to come out of executive session at 5:30*
- **Selectmen voted to give Sue, Emerald, Keena, Brandon, Glenn & Kevin a Christmas Bonus of weeks pay. They also voted to give Sue & Keena extra bonus for working thru and keeping the Town Office opened during COVID for the past 1 ½ year.**

ADJOURNED: Dick meeting adjourned at 5:35

DATES TO REMEMBER: Selectmen's Meeting-4:30 pm Wednesday, December 1st, 15th & 28th
 Budget



Broadband Committee
Select Board Update Presentation
December 1, 2021

Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the activities of the Broadband Committee.

The committee held its first official meeting on August the 2nd. We have held monthly meetings on the Third Monday of each month as well as additional information/education sessions with representatives of the Island Institute & LCRPC and subcommittee work sessions as needed.

To date, we have accomplished the following:

- We have established a working group or subsets covering ISP (Internet Service Provider) contacts; Research & Development; Survey Development; Broadband Coalition and regional outreach contacts; and, editorial communications. We established a web page on the Town Website and have been posting our agendas, minutes and major information pieces to the site.
- We applied for and received a planning grant from MCF (The Maine Community Foundation); raised funds within our committee and received a small matching fund authorization from our Select Board. We also made an ARPA funds request of our Select Board for planning and development of a Broadband Strategy
- We arranged with Tidewater Telecom and received a preliminary engineering study consisting of town mapping our internet Service as well as a preliminary cost estimate for build out options.
- We contacted Spectrum for similar information and continue to talk with them. We are about to send them a cost request for various segments of our unserved streets.
- We are discussing various ISP options based on online research, other town's experiences to date and recommendations from third parties.
- We are finalizing a survey for town residents that will be released on approximately January 6th and distributed through multiple sources (local print media, online, U.S. mail and boots on the ground to insure as high a response rate as possible.
- We are monitoring the Twin Villages Coalition with an open invitation to partner.
- We have started to outline an education program for our residents.
- We executed a straw poll on election day asking citizens if they supported the expenditure of ARPA funds for research and development of a plan for the town's broadband needs and in spite of not having proximity to many voters, we received 238 signatures from 620 voters or 38+% subsequent to election day we have received an additional 50 signatures clearly showing our citizens recognition of the importance of this project.

Over the next several months, we will be looking to accomplish the following:

- Analyze the data we get back from our resident survey to better determine the community's needs from a service point of view.
- Continue to research alternative options for delivering that service.
- Prepare an RFI (request for information) and distribute the same to a select group of potential broadband service providers - both wired and satellite.
- Begin delivery of our community education program

Our MCF grant money as well as requested ARPA funds will be used to fund: survey costs; advanced mapping expenses; technology upgrades; facilitation services for our community outreach & education; and consulting costs for advanced project development. I am happy to report that to date, we have been able to avoid any expenditure for preliminary mapping and cost estimates.

As I stated earlier, we meet regularly via zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month and both you and the public are welcome to attend. The zoom link appears with our agenda on our web page.

I have asked representatives of LCRPC, Island Institute and the Bremen Broadband Committee to join us tonight with a goal of giving you insight into the broadband extension & delivery process; town education and funding methods. We believe insuring you too are given as broad an understanding as possible will help us achieve the best end result for our residents.

Thankyou,
Peter Gabbe
on behalf of the Nobleboro Broadband Committee