

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
Nobleboro Town Office Meeting Room
June 18, 2024 @ 5:30pm Public Hearing
Select Board Meeting Immediately Following**

ATTENDEES:

Richard Spear – Select Board Chair	Nate House – Broadband Committee Chair
Richard Powell – Select Board Member	William Soares – Broadband Committee
Jon Chadwick – Select Board Member	Matt Silverman - Wanderwood
Emerald Friend – Town Clerk	Matt Benner – Road Commissioner
Robyn Clark - Treasurer	Jeffrey Karas – Broadband Committee

OPEN MEETING: Public Hearing called to order at 5:33pm by Dick Spear

- Dick opened the public hearing by explaining the reason, which is a permit request from Wanderwood, represented by Matt Silverman
- Jon asked for a brief synopsis
 - Matt explained the venue (retreats, weddings, private events)
 - They would like to provide bar tending services (in lieu of a caterer) and to sell alcohol, with food, at their own ticketed events
 - They are also applying with the State for the State permit and health inspection
 - They have no intention, initially, of offering alcohol as a walk-in basis. Beer and wine only, no liquor.
- Richard motioned to accept the application for a bar license
- Jon 2nd the motion
- The motion passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MINUTES: Approve 06/05/2024 Minutes

- J Chadwick made a motion to approve the 06/05/2024 Minutes
- R Powell 2nd the motion
- The vote was unanimous.

SCHOOL & TOWN WARRANTS:

1. School AP Warrant	# 52	\$ 23,020.21
2. Town Payroll Warrant	# 53	\$ 22,964.70
3. School Payroll Warrant	# 54	\$ 66,525.01
4. Town AP Warrant	# 55	<u>\$ 81,221.58</u>
		\$193,731.50

- R Powell made a motion to approve the warrants as written above
- J Chadwick 2nd the motion
- The vote was unanimous.

SIGN WARRANTS: 48-51

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2024 Municipal Officer List**
 - Richard Powell motioned to approve the 04/01/24 list with one exception
 - Kevin Rawley is to be referenced instead of Aaron Bradbury
 - Jon Chadwick 2nd the motion
 - The motion passed unanimously
- **Broadband Committee**
 - Nate House explained they are now only asking \$17,250 rather than the original \$50k
 - This will provide service from Consolidated for North Nobleboro (maps 7-9) making them competitive with Spectrum
 - Every place with a legal telephone/electric line will get fiber in the next year or two
 - There are 230 locations at \$75/location
 - Richard Powell asked the status of the rest of the town
 - Nat explained Tidewater is rolling out over the next 5 years for the unserved/under served (be the end of 2028)
 - Richard Powell motioned to accept the support letter via electronic submission
 - Jon Chadwick 2nd the motion with the following change:
 - “an estimated \$17,250” changed to “not to exceed \$17,250”
 - Nate agreed to change the wording
 - The motion passed unanimously
 - Dick mentioned any money not being used for this project will be going to Cotton Stream
- **Duck Puddle Rd Culvert**
 - Robyn was asked to arrange a meeting with our Select Board and the Waldoboro Select Board during the Waldoboro Select Board meeting in two weeks.
- **Fireproof Vault (updates, if any)**
 - No further updates

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm

Minutes were transcribed by Emerald Friend, Town Clerk

06/18/2024

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Andrew Butcher
President, Maine Connectivity Authority
PO Box 817
125 Forest Ave.
Portland, ME 04104

Dear Mr. Butcher:

The town of Nobleboro (The "Town") is in full support of the application of Consolidated Communications for the Maine Connectivity Authority's Partnerships Enabling Middle Mile (PEMM) program. The town pledges to commit an ~~estimated \$17,250~~ (\$75/location for 230 locations). These funds will be matched by Lincoln County showing full municipal support for this application.

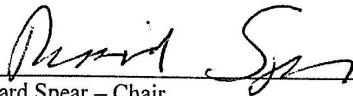
an amount not to exceed (WPH)
Reliable internet is no longer a luxury but a necessity for connecting with friends, family, coworkers, and enabling technology that contributes to our everyday lives. Fiber internet can be twenty times faster than a standard residential internet connection. In a world where working and learning from home is essential, it's crucial to have a reliable internet connection.

Consolidated Communications will bring fiber based symmetrical service to all residents that at least have electric infrastructure in the area. It will allow those residents living in a rural area to be a part of the digital economy. The Town believes that it is critical to its continued economic development and viability.

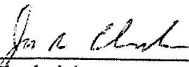
The infrastructure that Consolidated Communications provides is future-proof connectivity for the businesses and residents of these communities, easily able to deliver upwards of 2G of symmetric service to residents and scalable to 10G with no additional last mile network investment other than upgraded equipment. The town understands this will provide for both current and future needs and is very excited to bring this level of service to its citizens.

Thank you for considering what we believe to be a strong partnership and proposal.


Sincerely,



Richard Spear – Chair



Jon Chadwick



Richard Powell Jr.

Plan:

Consolidated Communications (“CC”) is submitting an application to the Maine Connectivity Authority (“MCA”) for their Partnerships Enabling Middle Mile (“PEMM”) program. CC application will provide fiber to the home to all Lincoln County (and some adjacent counties) customers that they currently serve. These towns include Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Southport Island, Waldoboro, Wiscasset, Whitefield, Dresden, Alna, and North Nobleboro.

Service:

CC will provide symmetrical (same upload and download) speeds starting at 100mb/s, available up to 2,000mb/s. All current customers and customers with adequate (legal) phone poles, adequate underground conduit, or no conduit up to 500ft, are eligible for free connection. Inadequate poles or conduit (over 500ft) will require property owner investment to make adequate accommodations.

Currently this area is unserved/underserved with cable service from Spectrum or DSL service from CC. Neither is symmetrical, with Cable speeds available in the area are up to 300mb/s down and 10mb/s up and DSL speeds up to 10mb/s down and 2mb/s up.

Service Costs:

For comparison we will only compare the basic tier service for each CC and Spectrum.

CC will provide 100mb/s down and 100mb/s up for \$25/month the first 12-months, and \$45/month after the first year. Renting a CC router will cost \$10/mo or the customer could provide their own. There are no additional fees associated with this service.

Spectrum will provide 300mb/s down and 10mb/s up for \$40/month the first 12-months, and \$85/month after the first year. Spectrum has a \$7/month Wi-Fi service fee. Similar to CC, the customer can provide their own equipment to avoid the \$7/month fee.

Funding:

CC estimates that this program will connect 16,000 locations at a cost of \$25million dollars (\$1,562.5 per location). The application will be requesting \$5million (20% of total costs/\$312.5 per location) from the MCA in the form of a PEMM grant. County and Town contributions at 2.3million (9.2% of total costs/\$143 per location). CC will be committing the remaining 17.7million (70.8%/\$1,107 per location).

The County is asking towns to commit \$150/location, \$75/location of which will be match/covered by the county. \$75/location committed by both the town and county for a total of \$150/location.

We estimate 220 (+/- 10) locations in North Nobleboro according to 911 service numbers and available data. Assuming the high end of 230 locations, at \$75/location, results in a total commitment of \$17,250. The total project cost of these 230 locations, at \$1,562.5/location, is estimated to be \$359,375. By committing \$17,250 the town is receiving an additional \$342,125 worth of direct services, a ~20:1 match of funds by county, state, and private commitments. This is a conservative estimate, as to solely build out just the North Nobleboro 230 locations would require a significantly larger investment.

Value:

What direct value does this bring to the roughly 230 locations in North Nobleboro?

- 1.) Better service – Symmetrical 100/100 mbs/s service is the lowest tier, which greatly exceeds both Spectrum and DSL.
- 2.) Reduced Costs – Service plan costs are more than 50% lower than the comparable Spectrum service. Saving the North Nobleboro resident \$180/year in the first year, and over \$450/year in subsequent years
- 3.) Competition – With fiber available to compete with Spectrum, customers in North Nobleboro will have choices and will be able to leverage that choice for potential lower costs with their existing service with Spectrum, or switch to the lower cost fiber from CC

Summary:

By supporting this grant application by committing ARPA funds, the town will be assisting North Nobleboro residents to potentially reduce their monthly bills for internet, while increasing the internet services available in that area.

The amount of \$17,250 is 65% less than the \$50,000 we originally thought we would need to commit.

While this service will be available to **ALL** North Nobleboro Residents, if only 50 were to subscribe to this new service over the existing spectrum service, those residents will save a combined \$9,000 the first year and \$22,000 the second year.