

Select Board Minutes

Date: February 22, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Next Meeting: March 8, 2022

Minutes:

Present: Dina Walker, Richard Doughty, Carol Cochran, Debbie Smith, Chris Lynch, Rick and Sharon Davol

Department Heads:

None present

Public Safety:

Rick said that propane usage is in line from last year. Fire personnel did go around the building with the thermal imaging camera and they did find that a heating vent was blowing in a closet which has been closed off.

Rick said that we needed to talk to Downeast Energy in April or May and do a pre-purchase agreement with them to get a lower price per gallon.

New Business

Public Works:

- Merchant Road Plowing – The beginning of the road is in Weld. The County is not plowing the Merchant Road. The County said that they were not responsible for maintenance of the Bridge, it is up to the State. The County has had a hearing and have said that they would not be plowing the road. There has been an individual that has been plowing it and that there is liability involved. Richard talked to Steve and he will be plowing it going forward and grading will continue.
- Spring Road Postings – Dirt roads need to be posted and Steve will be asked to check for signs.

- Update on frozen culverts – They were being thawed today by Vortex with a water powered auger. There were 2 on West Brook Road, 1 on Center Hill
- Input of job posting – Richard spoke to Brian and he believes that we should wait until after Town Meeting to do that.

Broadband update from Matrix:

Chris Lynch – Affordable Connectivity Program: From FCC the Federal Government for People who qualify for this program. \$25,760 for 1 person, \$44,000 3 person household, \$53,000 4 person household – FCC will give \$30 off the bill Matrix will give \$10 per month for a total of \$40 off per month. The cost would go from \$95.00 per month to \$55 per month.

Connect Maine infrastructure grant round opened up about 2 weeks ago and Matrix submitted an application for Wilton, Weld, Washington and Perkins Townships. Matrix is waiting to hear back from TDS.

The Town agreed to pay \$217,000 and we would also be responsible for the ground work and the building to house the electronics.

In the Grant round Maxtrix asked for extra funds to pay for the installation fee that was going to be \$450 so it would be either \$0 or \$100 for installation fee. March 20th is the deadline for the grant.

Fiber map will show all roads where the houses are to make sure that the fiber will go by each house.

They will do a pull survey of all of the poles and their exact number.

After the applications are submitted to CMP it takes about 6 months.

There will be a Website that will list the pricing and individuals can sign up online.

Richard asked if they reach a point that it isn't worthwhile to Matrix. Chris said that when people look at their budget it works out for them. Richard said that we need to go back to the Town to vote for us to proceed.

MOU – Utility companies will make an estimate of the town and would have the numbers and at that time will move to the agreement form.

1. Pole survey
2. Doing pole attachment 45 days to 60 days then send us the estimates and may be back in May – Agreement and Referendum
3. The application will include 200 poles for each permit and separate permits for each Town.
4. Standalone building or a portion of a building already existing to house the electronics.
5. Service in home by the end of the year Spring of 2023.
6. A monthly fee for attachment is \$5 per month will be more when seasonal users are not using Broadband and it could be done through taxation or added to each Broadband user's bill.
7. There will be a local person that will respond to any outages and will be fixed asap depending on what the outage is of course will be how soon it can be repaired.

Chris indicated that he would be at Town Meeting on March 5th.

Municipal election prep

- Any issues – Looks like we are all set.

Town Meeting prep

- Heating system upgrade is supposed to start Friday, Chris can do wiring and duct work put in and he believes that the new system will be up and running,
- PA system will be set up for Saturday with 2 wired mikes and 2 wireless mikes.
- General Cleaning and set up – Patrick will clean it

Recommendations from Dina after last years Town Meeting:

Send out email that Town Reports are available on list serve, Introduction of Municipal Officials, short summary of how the Town Meeting is conducted, time limit of how much time given on each article, etc.

There is a lot of information and time put into the Town Report and it does not seem that there are many who look at the Town Report before Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol J. Cochran".

Carol J. Cochran