

# TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE

## Broadband Committee

### Minutes

AUGUST 21, 2023, 7:00pm, Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Dave Bogan, Paul Specht, Nick Williams, Gary Plouff, Christine Wolter. Absent with Notice: Eric Benn, Philip Schaffner. Also Present: Cathy Logan Weber

Co-Chairman Paul Specht called the meeting to order at 7: 01pm.

Item 1). A motion was made by Nick Williams and seconded by Dave Bogan to approve the minutes, of the June 19, 2023 meeting of the Broadband Committee. Motion carried.

Item 2). Dave Bogan and Paul Specht reported that Spectrum Legal has responded to the draft Grant Contribution and MOU agreements submitted to Spectrum in May for consideration and approval. Dave and Paul have since provided and discussed comments on Spectrum's suggested changes to the documents with Celeste Flynn of Spectrum before passing them on to Spectrum legal for additional consideration. Spectrum Legal second round of comments have yet to be received. The Committee asked if this drawn-out process to come to an agreement on wording of these documents is holding up work on our project. Dave and Paul responded that Celeste Flynn has assured us that it has not. It is hoped that these documents will be finalized within the next month or so. Spectrum activity burying fiber in the Boulder Junction Hwy N and M corridors was discussed. Discussions with Spectrum suggest this activity includes the fiber feed that will serve Natural Lakes, Frontier Lakes and areas to the west on Hwy B. The current time line estimates from Spectrum suggest some work may be completed in the Natural Lakes area yet this year but the bulk of the work to build out the Town will begin in earnest next spring. Cathy Logan Weber reported that Spectrum has been in touch with the Town to begin the permitting process for its work on Town roads.

Item 3). Dave and Paul reported the scheduled monthly teleconference with the VCEDC, Spectrum and the other Vilas County Towns with current projects was cancelled due to Spectrum scheduling conflicts. Consequently, there was no update for the Committee.

Item 4.). The timing of the payment of the Town's initial \$300,000 commitment and related borrowing was discussed in the context of the 2024 Town Budget process. Cathy Logan Weber was to follow-up with the Town on when (which calendar year) the Town would prefer borrowing the funds.

Item 5). Dave Bogan updated the Committee on activity related to website development and property owner subscription levels (currently at approximately 214). At the current time information about Spectrum's project timing and availability of additional information for the website is quite limited affecting the level of work that can actually be done on the website at this point. The topic of an informational insert to be included in the December tax statements was discussed. This issue will need to be discussed with the Town Treasurer to determine feasibility. The potential timing of the next Town Board update was also discussed.

Item 6). The next Meeting of the Committee was schedule for Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Item 7). On a motion from Dave Bogan seconded by Nick Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Specht