

TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE

Broadband Committee

Minutes

February 7, 2022, 7:00pm, Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Dave Bogan, Paul Specht, Nick Williams, Eric Benn, Gary Plouff, Christine Wolter. Absent with Prior Notification: Phillip Schaffner. Also Present: Cathy Logan Weber, Gary Owens. Co-Chairmen Paul Specht called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item 1). A motion was made by Nick William and seconded by Eric Benn to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2022 meeting of the Broadband Committee. Motion carried.

Item 2). Paul Specht updated the Committee about on-going discussions with Charter Communications stating that no substantive discussions or receipts of information had occurred since the Committee's previous meeting.

Item 3). Paul Specht and Dave Bogan shared with the Committee their takeaways for the Town Board meeting held on Thursday, February 3th. The general feeling was that support at the Board level, and from residents and taxpayers in attendance, for a Town-wide solution was growing and they were looking forward to receiving more project and cost details. It was all reported that the Board was brought up to speed as to the types and timing of meetings and approvals necessary for the Town (which includes the Town's selection of an Internet Service Provider) to meet the application deadline of March 17, 2022 set for PSC Broadband grants.

Item 4). Paul Specht solicited the Committee's thoughts on proactively scheduling a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of bringing taxpayers up to speed on ISP selection and project details and to receive input for the Board as they consider a resolution to move forward with the Committee's recommended ISP and project specifics. Such a meeting requires it be posted 15 days in advance. Setting this meeting date and notifying Charter Communications of related informational needs could set the process on course for a Board resolution by the end of February. It was the consensus of the Committee to set February 24th at 6pm as the date for this Special Town meeting. Paul Specht agreed to work with the Town Clerk to get the meeting duly posted.

Item 5). The Committee continued its discussions on how best, and when, to move forward with campaigns to solicit additional project letters of support and pledges. The list of potential targeted audiences for these solicitations was reviewed and augmented and Committee members were asked to select specific targets to manage. Paul Specht was to be notified of selections so an updated target list with committee member assignments could be prepared. A draft letter to be used in connection with discussions with targets was also discussed. The Committee suggested that before serious solicitations commence more specifics on the recommended ISP and project costs to the consumer would be helpful. Paul Specht stated that It was his hope that the needed information would be forthcoming within the next 2 weeks.

Item 6.) On a motion from Dave Bogan seconded by Nick Williams the meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 14, 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Respectively submitted, Paul Specht.

