

# TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE

## Broadband Committee

### Minutes

July 11, 2022, 7:00pm, Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Dave Bogan, Paul Specht, Nick Williams, Chris Wolter, Philip Schaffner, Gary Owens. Absent With Notification: Eric Benn, Gary Plouff. Also Present: Cathy Logan Weber,

Co-Chairmen Paul Specht called the meeting to order at 7: 03pm.

Item 1). A motion was made by Dave Bogan and seconded by Philip Schaffner to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2022 meeting of the Broadband Committee. Motion carried.

Item 2). Gary Owen was welcomed as a new member to the Committee. Members expressed their delight for having Gary on the Committee because of the career experience and insights he can bring to the contracting and construction phases of the Broadband expansion project.

Item 3). Paul Specht and Dave Bogan discussed the status of PSC grant process and expected next steps. The PSC is expected to issue its formal "order" authorizing grant awards within the next 4d to6 weeks. Once issued, contract discussions will commence between the PSC and the ISPs including Charter. Once those discussions are completed, Committee efforts can then focus its efforts on agreement and contract terms between the Town and Charter. It is thought that this work could begin by sometime in October or November. Although Charter is hoping, based on prior grant timelines, its contract with the PSC will be finalized and signed by December 31 allowing work to begin in earnest on January 1 2023, a change in how the State is financing the grants and resulting contract requirements it may impose on ISPs may complicate discussions pushing and contract finalization out into 2023. Project start dates and timelines could also be affected by supply chain and contractor availability issues that are having impact on grants awarded in prior cycles. Consequently, the Committee was asked to be careful not to overpromise when the two-year clock for completion of the work will start when talking to stakeholders. Paul Specht also mentioned that in a conversation with Charter, they indicated that RDOF work within the Town will be done concurrently with the PSC grant work with the goal of having the entire Town complete within the two-year PSC requirement.

Item 4). Gary Owens indicated that he has begun preliminary research on opportunities, "back trenching" being one, to leverage the arrival of Fiber in the Town to improve and expand cell phone service within the Town. The Committee agreed that this research should be pursued.

Item 5). Dave Bogan talked briefly about the direction and status of the website be constructed to support information sharing with stakeholders including residents that will be receiving access to fiber broadband service. Committee members were directed to provide Dave with "frequently asked questions" (FAQs) (with answers of known) for inclusion on the website. Members were also asked to visit the Boulder Junction Broadband website to gather ideas on how Presque's website should be constructed and presented. Gary Owens was to contact Charter to see if they had pre-prepared FAQs and other information that could help with the construction of the website.

Item 6). A brief discussion was held on establishing workgroups within the Committee to address specific tasks such as contract preparation/negotiation, website development and maintenance, project management, etc. This topic will be addressed in further detail during future meetings of the Committee.

Item 7). Paul Specht was to provide Committee members with information on how to attend two sessions scheduled but the VCEDC later in July the first to discuss the grant process to-date and going forward and the second to be a more detailed session for Town's that were awarded grants.

Item7). On a motion from Dave Bogan seconded by Nick Williams the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for August 8, 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Specht