

TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE

Broadband Committee

Minutes

June 19, 2023, 7:00pm, Zoom Meeting

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

Co-Chairmen Paul Specht called the meeting to order at 7: 00pm.

Item 1). A motion was made by Nick Williams and seconded by Dave Bogan to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2023 meeting of the Broadband Committee. Motion carried.

Item 2). Dave Bogan and Paul Specht reported that Spectrum Legal has yet to respond to the draft Contribution and MOU agreements we submitted to them for consideration and approval. Per Celeste Flynn of Spectrum, the new time line is for Legal to complete its review and provide us with its run at a combined Contribution/MOU document as early June 23. Ms. Flynn also reported that she has accepted a new position will be leaving our Spectrum project team within the next couple of weeks. Her replacement has yet to be named. Paul and Dave will work to determine appropriate interim and future contacts at Spectrum for moving forward.

Item 3). Dave and Paul reported on a VCEDC teleconference attended with Spectrum and other Town's within Vilas County with active PSC contracts with Spectrum. The "Walk Out" work underway by Spectrum to determine serviceable addresses continues with most progress to-date being in the more eastern regions of the County where more of the transport fiber backbone is in place. The plan is to have this backbone reach the intersection of Hwy M and Hwy B sometime in late August and move westward through Presque Isle thereafter. We can expect Walk Out work in Presque Isle to start in earnest in the August time frame and continue into the fall/winter. Fiber-to-home work in the Natural Lakes area could begin as early as late August. The remainder of the Town will be built out as the transport fiber backbone moves west with the bulk of the work expected to be completed during 2024. Spectrum did indicate that efforts are being taken to coordinate the PSC and RDOF work in the Town whenever possible to expedite the build out of the entire Town. This teleconference did provide a deeper look into the efforts by, and team participants at, Spectrum. Dave and Paul both felt the Spectrum team came across as quite competent and having a pretty good handle on projects being managed in Vilas County.

Item 4.). Dave and Paul provided the Committee with work done to determine best alternatives for providing better Broadband to islands within the Town. Islands with existing aerial service or within view of same owner shoreline parcels may have options for taking full advantage of Spectrum's infrastructure. Many other islands will most likely need to consider alternative provider sources such as existing Brightspeed or satellite offerings. Dave also addressed the limitations of "hookup" information on Spectrum's website. Available information addresses Spectrum's COAX product but not its Fiber offering. This concern was share with Spectrum and they suggested that the hookup processes for COAX and Fiber were similar but not in all aspects. Work will be done to put together a better explanation for this process for inclusion on the Town's Broadband website.

Item 5). Dave Bogan updated the Committee on Broadband Website development activity since the last meeting. Property owner subscriptions to the website continue to grow and currently number 230+ (with a few possible duplicates). Work continues providing additional content to be included in the popular FAQs section of the Website. The potential timing of the next Public Information Session was also discussed. Dave reported that he had been in contact with Mark Lorenz of Excel Energy who was looking for details on trenching activity plans be Spectrum within Presque Isle for possible coordination opportunities. Dave Indicated to Mr. Lorenz that this level of detail from Spectrum was not yet available.

Item 6). The next Meeting of the Committee was schedule for Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

Item 7). On a motion from Dave Bogan seconded by Nick Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Specht