

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: June 6, 2019
Time: 9:00am
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chair George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Rich Edwards, Marj Wexler, Eileen Vining, Jeff Lazarus, Rolfe Tessem, Mary McGurn.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

Jeff Lazarus updated all present on the process to date and on the status of the negotiations with Fiber Connect.

The Board discussed with Jeff and Rolfe the 3 private ways (Brookvale/Hilltop, Farm Lane, Miller View) and 1 public way (Hickory Hill) that have underground utilities. The estimated cost to install underground cabling for these roads is almost \$300,000. Putting in poles and installing over heard cabling is much cheaper.

It was agreed to move forward with sending a letter to the property owners on the four ways with underground utilities announcing a question and answer meeting on June 20, 2019 at 7pm. This letter will inform them of the options to installing broadband on those ways. A decision on how to proceed on these roads will need to be given to the Town by June 28, 2019.

It was agreed to move forward with negotiations with Fiber Connect for the unserved areas of town that do not have underground facilities while working on determining the most cost effective way to serve the residents with underground facilities.

Also agreed that the Board of Selectmen will negotiate with MBI for payment in arrears, milestone payments, etc.

It was felt that we can safely meet the MBI requirement of 96% coverage with a 51% take rate even without the private ways.

It was felt that wireless was not an option at this time for the areas with underground facilities. It is not Fiber Connects area of expertise and the speeds are not comparable to fiber optic service.

The Board will discuss the Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw at its June 11, 2019 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.19/jun6

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.