Broadband Subcommittee of Temple Community Planning Committee (TCPC) MINUTES

Friday, March 5, 2021, 6:30 PM

Via Zoom per Gov. Sununu Emergency Orders #12 & #16

Attendees: Christine Robidoux, Dana Nowell, Mike Flynn, Jessica Hipp, Jeff McIver (CCI), Leona Davis

Christine Robidoux read the State of Emergency text. Attendance was taken via roll call.

The minutes from the February 5, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

Review next steps with CCI

- Introductions, Roles, and Responsibilities
 - Broadband committee members introduced themselves.
 - Jeff McIver introduced himself as the project lead for Consolidated Communications. His role is town and city partnerships in Maine, NH and Vermont.
 Jeff will continue to be the project lead through installation and until the network in place. Tripp and Mike from CCI will also be involved. Installation questions go to Mike. Product and pricing questions will go to Tripp.
 - Jessica Hipp will serve as the primary point of contact for the Town. Once construction starts, town lead gets an update every other week. If there's an issue in town, the resident goes through the lead to contact CCI.
- The subcommittee asked questions of Jeff McIver that included questions from town residents.
 - End user pricing
 - CCI's current pricing will be reduced this summer. Everyone will be sent a letter regarding the new pricing. Jeff will send something that we can share with residents.
 - CCI will offer a 2 gig option soon.
 - With all plans, there is no contract term and no data caps.
 - These options will be available for every customer.
 - No time of day bandwidth issues, throttling, etc.
 - Pricing for small business is a different price tier. There may be a charge for a home residence to get a static IP address.
 - Town buildings get free install and free service. If they need a static IP, that would be an additional cost.
 - Future capacity
 - Fiber lines can carry up to 100/100 gbps.

 CCI has to update equipment at home office and equipment at the home to increase speeds. This equipment is expected to be upgraded over the 20 year term of the contract.

Running service from the street to the home

- For anyone who has an existing phone line (communication path poles to the house or good functioning conduit), the drop is free. If a driveway is over 1,000 feet, CCI would need to know in advance to have enough line on the truck.
- It is up to the customer to have poles or conduit put in.
- From past experience, there have been minimal issues with existing conduit. Typically, CCI sees a lot more aerial drops.
- Jeff will follow up with a percentage of previous installs where the conduit was insufficient.
- Jeff will send conduit specs that can be shared with residents.
- If someone builds in several years down the road, as long as there is conduit to the home, CCI will run fiber.

Bond and subscriber fee

- A max fee of \$14/user will be in place for the lifetime of the bond.
- There are two options for determining this fee: A variable fee would mean that every other year, CCI will meet with the town to show progress in paying bond. There is the possibility that the infrastructure fee would be reduced over time. Once it lowers, it cannot go back up. The other option is that CCI can determine a fixed fee, rather than the fee dropping every other year.
- One town is doing a 10 year bond, possibly through a source other than the Bond Bank. The other 19 NH towns CCI is working with have done a 20-year bond through the bond bank.
- CCI will take care of any additional taxes, fees over what we are budgeting for.
- Christine Robidoux will check-in with bond bank re any updates on timing due to postponed town meetings.

Next Steps

- Jeff to send a draft contract as a Word doc for us to review. This will be the same base agreement as all other towns. Dana will review.
- Meetings with road agents, etc. can happen in June, July. The engineering team will come out to map town, etc. This work may happen before the meeting in June
- Jeff will send a list of things needed before June and after, assuming the bond passes.
- Fiber build is 14 weeks, splicing is 12-14 weeks; testing is 2 weeks. Some of this happens in parallel.

Signing up for Service

 CCI creates a landing page for every town they partner with. Residents are encouraged to pre-register for service. Updates, pricing, etc. will be sent through this landing page.

- CCI can run fiber to the house during the fiber build, but not go inside. When it comes time to install, it takes only about 1 hour per house.
- For now, residents have to use CCI's router, but down the road we can bring our own.
- Upcoming Dates and Tasks
 - Jessica to draft a mailer to be approved at the next broadband meeting.
 - Friday, March 19th, 6:30 pm: Broadband meeting
 - April 22nd @ 6:30 pm 2nd public benefit hearing hosted by the Select Board
 - ∘ May 19th @ 6:30 pm bond hearing hosted by the Select Board
 - ∘ Saturday, June 5th @ 2pm Q&A forum

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Hipp