

GRAFTON COUNTY BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING

3855 Dartmouth College Highway

North Haverhill, NH 03774

October 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nik Coates, Carina Park, A. Dorsett, Samantha Norcross

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Schwendler, Bill Darcy, Katelyn Robinson – NCIC, John Adams – Orford Broadband

N. Coates called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

J. Schwendler arrived gave the attached presentation from a study that was done in Orford at the request of the Committee.

**MOTION: \* 10:15 AM** C. Park moved to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) for the purposes of, consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and per RSA 91-A: 3, II (I) for the purposes of consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.. A. Dorsett seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. N. Coates called the roll. C. Park “yes”, A. Dorsett “yes”, N. Coates “yes”.

**\* 10:26 AM** N. Coates declared the meeting back in public session.

**MOTION:** A. Dorsett moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session. C. Park seconded the motion. N. Coates called the roll. C. Park “yes”, B. Codling “yes”, A. Dorsett “yes”, N. Coates “yes”. With the vote being four (4) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

**MOTION:** N. Coates moved to recommend the County to execute MSA Task Order 1. C. Park seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**MOTION: \* 10:28 AM** C. Park moved to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) for the purposes of, consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and per RSA 91-A: 3, II (I) for the purposes of consideration of matters relating to the preparation for and the carrying out of emergency functions, including training to carry out such functions, developed by local or state safety officials that are directly intended to thwart a deliberate act that is intended to result in widespread or severe damage to property or widespread injury or loss of life.. A. Dorsett seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote. N. Coates called the roll. C. Park “yes”, A. Dorsett “yes”, N. Coates “yes”.

\* **11:20 AM** N. Coates declared the meeting back in public session.

**MOTION:** A. Dorsett moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session. C. Park seconded the motion. N. Coates called the roll. C. Park “yes”, B. Codling “yes”, A. Dorsett “yes”, N. Coates “yes”. With the vote being four (4) in favor and none in opposition the motion passes.

A. Dorsett left the meeting.

N. Coates stated that the Committee has lost its quorum and therefore cannot take any action but can carry on with their discussion.

Bill Darcy asked the Committee what their plans are in regards to the USDA Grant. He questioned whether NHEC and the Broadband Committee could work together on those grant opportunities as they would both likely be applying for them. N. Coates stated that he would discuss the engineering, which would then lead into the USDA discussion. He asked K. Glynn for an update on phase 1 of the engineering. K. Glynn gave the committee an update on the engineering and the route they plan to start with in Task Order 1. N. Coates noted that counsel has reviewed the MSA and Task Order 1, comments have been provided to eX2 and have been finalized. N. Coates reported that they are targeting November 9<sup>th</sup> for the Commissioners to sign off on the MSA and Task Order 1. This is being funded by the \$195,000 from ARPA funds, which is covering engineering the first phases of the middle mile network.

USDA Grant - K. Robinson stated that the application for the funding opportunity will be released on November 24<sup>th</sup>. They are supposed to hear from the NTIA Grant the week before this program comes out. If they receive the NTIA grant, they will not be pursuing the USDA Reconnect Grant. B. Darcy further discussed the grant applications and asked questions of the Committee.

Outreach – C. Park reported that she has the October Newsletter drafted. She stated that she has included a project update as well as the funding opportunities that have been awarded and ones that are being sought. She stated that in the newsletter she has encouraged municipalities to start their design process and put K. Robinson and K. Glynn’s contact information as their partners. C. Park asked where the Committee was at in regards to listening sessions. The Committee discussed future listening sessions and what information would be useful for the communities to have. J. Adams stated that this newsletter could help put pressure on the Commissioners by stating that the Committee has proposed these routes as a part of their first phase. They will look forward to their responses. It is going to show the communities and the public that this committee is doing something.

Letters of Support – C. Park stated that they are missing letters from Benton, Dorchester, Bridgewater, Lincoln and Monroe.

The Committee discussed how they plan to help with the towns to help them start planning their work. N. Coates stated that by December it would be safe to say that they will have a meeting set up with the towns involved in Task Order 1. The goal of this meeting would be for the towns to leave knowing what the next steps would be in regards to contacting K. Glynn from eX2 to help

with the design off the backbone, then contacting K. Robinson to assist with grant opportunities and put a funding plan together. The Committee further discussed goals of these community sessions.

12:00 PM with no further business the meeting adjourned