

**Town of Goshen
Select Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
January 20,2020**

Present (quorum = 2): Steve Smith, Dianne Craig, Cindy Rouillard (Secretary)

Others present: Alicea Burse, Ashley Cleary, Michelle Roy, Judy Dunn, Dan Livingston, Scott Warnock, Alexa Lorenz, Barbara Paronto

Zoom attendees: Dawna White, Sandra Sonischen, Michael Butler, Karen & Bryant Winterholer, Carolyn Stiles.

Non-residents/Guests present Jeff McIver (Consolidated Communications Inc.), Mike Cannon (Consolidated Communications Inc.), Melissa Salinardi

- The meeting called to order at 5:01 pm.
- The Select Board and audience said The Pledge of Allegiance
- Chairmen Bruce Nadeau will be temporary out on medical leave. Dianne made a motion to appoint Steve Smith as temporary Chair, Steve 2nd the motion. All in favor.
 - Vote by Roll Call: Dianne Craig – Yes; Steve Smith - Yes
- Jeffery McIver and Mike Cannon from Consolidated Commination (CCI) were present and gave a public information presentation for Broadband Internet. They explained how the fiber network will work and the difference between DSL and Fiber Optic as well as the difference between DSL and Fiber Optic. The whole town will be able to receive the service. In addition to the technical aspects of the project, CCI discussed what costs would be covered to bring the internet to a home. If existing conduit or poles are existing, then typically there is no additional cost to bring this service to a home. If neither conduit nor poles are existing, there is a quote process, and a fee may possibly be needed for installation.
- The Select Board will write a warrant article to be voted on at town meeting for the bond to pay for the installation of the Broad Band. The cost is \$780,125. This will be a 20-year bond. CCI will pay all the legal fees. No increase in town tax. The bond is paid back through a Broadband Recovery fee that is charged to the subscriber's monthly internet bill, not the taxpayer. The charge is expected to be \$13/month or less. If you do not subscribe to the internet service, you do not pay any fees. CCI will make a monthly payment to the town and the town will pay the bond bank. This option is not without risk, if the provider fails, the town (taxpayers) will be responsible to pay back the bond. It is estimated that if the town had to pay back the bond, the impact on the tax rate would be less than \$1/year. CCI will begin bond repayment from day one, even this occurs before building out the infrastructure begins. CCI will be investing greater than \$400,000 of their own funding into this project and their intent is to have a zero-sum impact on the taxpayers.
- If the warrant article passes the town will sign an agreement with CCI. It will take up to 26 weeks to get the fiber lines installed and additional 12 weeks to provide the service. It is expected that by week 38 of the project, that subscribers will have internet access. There will

not be a cost to have the pole to the house if you have an existing poles or conduit. There will be three tiers of pricing depending on the speed you choose.

- Alicea Bursey gave a power point presentation on public benefits, taxes, funding, warrant article, the process to date, the process going forward, and answered questions from the audience.

Dianne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm, Steve 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Roll call: Dianne Craig – Yes; Steve Smith – Yes.

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