

**Town of Goshen  
Select Board Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 22, 2021**

Present: Dianne Craig, Steve Smith, Cindy Rouillard

The meeting came to order at 6:31 pm.

- The check reports were reviewed and signed.
- Dianne made a motion to except the February 8, 2021 minutes with changes, Steve 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor.
- Steve stated post cards will be mailed out with information in regards to the town meeting. Election information with be included too.
- Dianne gave an update on the Grange project. Ed Peckham was going to doing the plumbing but because of timing constraints a new plumber will be hired. K. A. Stevens will do the site work. Dianne is hoping the grange will be first on Stevens agenda in the spring.
- The Selectboard signed thank you letters.
- Steve stated New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (NHEC) responded to the RFP for Broadband internet with an incomplete application in December 2020; the deadline for the RFP submission was December 21, 2020. The Select Board voted to accept Consolidated's RFP on December 28, 2020.

On February 4th, NHEC emailed the Select Board noting errors in the minutes from December 28, 2020 and offering corrections and additional clarity. On February 5th, the Select Board replied to the NHEC email requesting additional information that was not offered in the original RFP or follow up email. This included the cost of installation to the home, timeline, rates, internet capacity guarantees, clarity on who in Goshen would be eligible to receive service, rates and provisioning for town facilities, and the Town's obligation to NHEC.

NHEC responded to the Select Board's email on February 6th with most details being favorable to the Town or similar to the Consolidated RFP. However, details regarding specific questions in the RFP remained unclear or unanswered; for example, guarantees of service call response times.

The Select Board has sought to be fully transparent and hear all options available to the Town where Broadband service is concerned. However, the NHEC RFP including the additional information, was lacking in some areas and revised information was received after the RFP's December deadline. While there were several key items to consider, a top priority remains timing. Though NHEC responded with a timeline beginning in early 2021 there were two areas of concern. First, a timeline was not initially available even from the NHEC website while the RFPs were under consideration, the timeline was presented in the follow up emails. Second, NHEC consistently referenced the RDOF/FCC auction with CARES monies. According to the FCC's Auction 904: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Fact Sheet, the funding actually has up to six (6) to eight (8) years to be spent out with only 40% of service being required by the end of year three (3) and the schedule is set by the provider not the FCC. The RDOF funding awarded for Phase I did not include parts of Brook Road and those would be addressed in Phase II.

The Select Board thanks NHEC for their interest but are going to continue with bringing the bond to the town and let the voters decide.

- Cindy stated she spoke with a person that is interested in cleaning the town office. The select board asked Cindy to set up a conference call with him.

Dianne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm, Steve 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All in favor

DRAFT