Meeting Minutes

BROADBAND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

June 14, 2021

Municipal Office Complex

7:00pm

I. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm
Members Present: Jon Biller, Judith Dobai, Michael Gilroy, Tom Hays, Thomas Sevigny

II. Nomination of Chairman & Secretary:

A. Judith Dobai motioned to nominate Thomas Sevigny as Chairman, and Michael Gilroy as Secretary. Tom Hays seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously via voice vote.

III. Explanation of Process: Discussion was had regarding process. The charge of the committee is to make a recommendation regarding town-wide broadband service. The duration of the committee was noted to be 90 days.

IV. New Business

A. The Following Goals were set by the committee:
    1. Create a report for the Town of East Haddam that details options and recommendations for a townwide fiber optic network.
    2. Educate the community on the capabilities of Fiber Optic technology, and its potential benefits to the citizens of East Haddam.
    3. Identify funding opportunities.

B. Handout Materials were reviewed and a discussion was had regarding a town-wide fiber optics network. The committee agreed on the following:
    1. Any Fiber Optic network built and maintained by the town must be self-sufficient. The committee will not recommend a course of action that results in higher taxes.
    2. The Fiber Optic network will be optional - citizens must opt-in to participate. Fees charged for use of the network will fund the network.
    3. The committee will research potential benefits of regionalizing the network.

C. Meeting Schedule
    1. The committee agreed to meet on alternating Mondays at 7:00pm:
        a. Monday, June 28th
        b. Monday, July 12th
        c. Monday, July 26
        d. Monday, August 9th
        e. Monday, August 23rd
        f. Monday, September 13th

D. Recommendations were made for community members to further research Municipal Broadband initiatives prior to the June 28th meeting. The following resources were recommended by Committee Chairman Thomas Sevigny:
    1. A successful model of Municipal Broadband implemented in Ammon, Idaho: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSQVvFY4lPI&t=373s
    2. A TED Talk by Jeff Christensen regarding the benefits of municipal broadband: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vELWXp3OOUA&t=160s

V. Adjourned without objection at 8:14pm