

# Broadband Implementation Committee

October 4, 2024, 1pm, Zoom

## Attendees

Tom Sevigney, Craig Mansfield, Stan Conover, Laurel White, Stu Palmer, Bruce Harris, Linda Ziemienieski

Entry Point Nicole Cozzo

Meeting called to order at 1:01pm

September 20, 2024 Minutes approved, Motion made Stan, 2nd Craig

## USDA Loan Update

Nicole(EP) had an introductory call with one of the financiers that works with the USDA. This person wanted to know more about our town process regarding bonding, debt of the town and any USDA projects the town has presently. She forwarded a question list that Nicole sent to Irene, Tom and Craig. Nicole wants to arrange an introductory call with this financier to speak with Tom, Craig and Irene. Nicole stressed that this type of municipal build out is exactly the type of project the USDA wants to be involved in, especially with regard to Emergency Services. Nicole said that per her conversation with the USDA financier, describing our town's unique structure and such, that she understands the needs we have.

## Next Round of State Grants

\$10million available in this next round. After the meeting last week with DEEP, and Laurel's calling out the state's role in rejecting municipalities over ISPs, many other town representatives reached out to her during the ZOOM meeting. Laurel forwarded these other people's contact information to Tom and he has spoken with several of them. They are equally frustrated and Hamden and The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council both suggested they form coalitions to challenge the state process and these grant rejections. Kent, CT even tried to form a private/public partnership with Frontier and were pretty close to finalizing this when Verizon announced they were buying Frontier and the relationship Kent had with Frontier evaporated.

Nicole stressed we should not put all of our eggs into one basket (USDA) and to continue to pursue all avenues of funding, including the next round of grants, working with private funding options, etc.

Craig suggested we consider applying for enough money to fund the Low Level Engineering study needed to get closer to the State Grant requirements that caused us to be rejected in the last round of grants.

Nicole will get an estimate of what the cost of a Low Level Engineering Study would be based on other clients who have gone that far. Craig guesstimates it would be close to \$1 million.

#### Other news

Theresa Govert has resigned from this committee citing other commitments. This opens a seat on the committee. Linda will bring this to the next BOS meeting, next week. From there we need to start seeking a person to fill the seat, vet them and move our suggestions to the next BOS meeting for approval.

Next Meeting October 18, 2024, 1pm Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 1:24pm