

Maple Broadband
Addison County Communications Union District

Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2021

5:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m.

VIA ZOOM

To attend the meeting via your computer or mobile device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83053038682?pwd=M1R6K2t6b1h3YkhsSzYzd29Va1Z4UT09>

Meeting ID: 830 5303 8682

Passcode: 164132

Join by phone: +1 646 558 8656

Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband welcomed the representatives of the member towns.

Welcome/Introductions/Roll Call. The following people were present:

Rick Scott, Delegate Bridport;
Mike Sheets, Alternate Bridport;
Dan Sonneborn, Delegate Bristol;
Magna Dodge, Delegate Cornwall;
Cy Tall, Alternate Cornwall;
Steve Huffaker, Delegate Ferrisburgh;
Arabella Holzapfel, Alternate Ferrisburgh
Ross Conrad, Delegate Middlebury;
Hugh McLaughlin, Alternate Middlebury;
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Delegate Monkton;
Ellie Hagopian, Alternate New Haven;
Paul Vaczy, Delegate Salisbury;
Nancy Cornell, Delegate Starksboro;
Rich Warren, Alternate Starksboro;
Shannon Haggett, Delegate Vergennes;
Andrew Martin, Delegate Waltham;
Spence Putnam, Delegate Weybridge;

Adam Lougee, Clerk, non-member representing Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Bill Farmerie, resident of Panton

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Steve opened the public hearing at 5:03 to discuss the Proposed Budget for calendar year 2022 and Annual Report for 2021 that Maple Broadband had distributed prior to the meeting.

No members of the public came forward to comment on the proposed 2022 Budget or Annual Report for 2021. Steve left the hearing open for half an hour to be available for public comment. During that time period Steve and the full Board discussed Maple Broadband in general terms.

Paul Vaczy complimented the Executive Board on its accomplishments as listed in the annual report. Steve thanked Paul and noted that securing an operating partner, the pre-construction funds and starting on pre-engineering were Maple Broadband's biggest accomplishments to date. Bill Farmerie of Addison noted it was exciting for him as a resident to have the prospect for high-speed broadband. He noted he worked in Addison this summer and suffered with connectivity issues.

Hugh McLaughlin asked about the money remaining in Act 71 for Maple Broadband's territory for both construction and pre-construction.

Steve noted that he expected that WCVT, Maple Broadband's operating partner, would try to access some pre-construction funds. He also noted he expected construction applications would open in December. Lastly, he stated that he believed some of the pre-construction funds could also be available to conduct make ready work.

Steve closed the public hearing at 5:30 and after a short break opened the meeting.

1. Agenda Approval. Steve asked for additions or changes to the agenda. **Magna Dodge moved approval of the agenda. Nancy Cornell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**
2. Approve meeting minutes October 6th and October 15th, 2021. **Paul Vaczy moved approval of both sets of minutes from October. Magna Dodge seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All approved the minutes from October's meetings, which passed by a voice vote/show of hands.**
3. Approve of the proposed budget for 2022 and the Annual Report for 2021. Steve noted that since no one had commented on either the budget or annual report at the hearing he felt it would be appropriate to ask the Full Board to adopt them. **Mark Boltz-Robinson moved approval of the Proposed Budget for 2022 and of the Annual Report for 2021. Nancy Cornell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**
4. Grant Report. Nancy reported that we are one of two Vermont applicants with WCVT for an NTIA grant of \$8,000,000 and that we expect to hear that announcement by November 15th.
5. Treasurer's Report. Steve noted that the Executive Board provides Treasurer's Reports on a quarterly basis and had not prepared one for tonight's meeting.
6. Auditor RFP Update. Ellie reported that we have created an RFP and are soliciting responses from auditing firms. We expect at least two bids by the close of the RFP in a couple of weeks. **The Executive Board intends to bring a recommendation to the Full Board at its December meeting.**

7. Pre-Construction tasks update. Steve stated that Maple Broadband was moving forward with its pre-construction tasks. The Executive Board is currently speaking with VELCO to explore the use of dark fiber VELCO owns within the region. Steve also noted that VantagePoint Solutions, Maple Broadband's engineering firm will be in Addison County next week to kick off its work validating the high level design plans it has created.

8. Executive Session: **Steve Huffaker moved to find that premature public knowledge of Maple Broadband's contractual negotiations would clearly place Maple Broadband at a substantial disadvantage in those negotiations. Magna Dodge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**

Steve then moved that Maple Broadband enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Maple Broadband's contractual negotiations. Magna Dodge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.

The Board entered executive session at 6:10p.m.

The Board left executive session at 6:49 p.m.

9. Other Business: **Magna Dodge moved that the Full Board of Maple Broadband authorize the officers of Maple Broadband to execute all agreements necessary to allow Maple Broadband to enter into a financial relationship with the parties discussed in executive session upon the terms discussed at that time. Spencer Putnam seconded the motion which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**

Steve Huffaker then moved that the Full Board of Maple Broadband authorize the officers of Maple Broadband to execute all agreements necessary to allow Maple Broadband to enter into a contract with Power and Telephone to purchase STL fiber pursuant to the terms and conditions substantially similar contained in Power and Tel's response to Maple Broadband's RFP. Magna Dodge seconded the motion which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.

10. Future Meeting: Our next meeting will be on December 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

11. Adjourn: **Magna Dodge moved to adjourn, and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee, Clerk