

Shutesbury Broadband Committee			
9.16.2020		5:30 PM DST	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress		
Minutes	Jim Hemingway		
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Citino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt	Ayers Hall
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Stocker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kent Whitney
Other	Becky Torres, Town Administrator		
Approved minutes for 8/19/2020			

Discussion about minute taking and how detailed they should be. Decision was to keep taking them in much the same manner.

Hut Report: the 8/22/2020 server crash, according to Crocker, knocked out service to 30+ customers, a software crash that required a reboot. Remote monitoring for the generator is still not set up. Gayle suggests that all of our spare parts and equipment should be stored exclusively in the hut because the hut currently has a security system. But Steve feels that all the additional traffic in and out of the hut could be problematic as well. Maybe an external storage box or shed? But where to locate it? Becky will look into where such a container could be located.

Financial: \$57K cash on hand. \$123,544 in retained earnings which will be reported to the State for certification. Lots of questions about the service reports from Crocker – very little information about the calls themselves. Just the hours for the work, usually 2 or 4 hours, are listed without any supporting details. In addition there is often a lengthy delay in the billing for the repairs, for sometimes the original bill sent to us shows up 3 months after the work has been done. Problem may be due to the fact that Crocker subcontracts much of its repairs to Tri-Wire, and so Tri-Wire may be lax in reporting or sending the bills for their work to Crocker. Lengthy discussion about how to increase the transparency for the billing process.

Sertex estimate for dig-safe: \$440, a lot higher than the \$250 we thought it might be a month ago. But who should pay for such a dig-safe? Lengthy debate about this topic. It was felt that we might open ourselves up to all sort of liability problems if we pay for part or all of the Sertex dig-safe. Vote was taken: all voted yes on having the homeowner pay for Dig-Safe.

Iomay Caban is leaving Crocker, and new Operations Manager will be hired in October. Gayle will work with them to make sure outstanding items don't get lost in the transition time.

Removal of Surety Bonds issue: Bill Ennen is forging ahead with this issue; we need to draft a formal petition to the MDTC(Mass Department of Telecom and Cable) which would include letters from our state representatives supporting our proposal. No other towns are involved at this time. The Select Board will need to sign this petition.

Tree trimming policy: Don, our Shutesbury tree warden, has been consulted. The Town is liable for cleaning up any tree damage 25' either side of the center of the road. The Town might also be responsible for the damage from falling trees to some degree(Becky will check this for accuracy). National Grid is responsible for trimming trees near their lines on town roads, but not for the drops to people's homes. No one is hopeful that National Grid will do a whole lot more than they have already to take care of all the trimming necessary for their single phase distribution network. They pay far more attention to their three-phase distribution networks. Might be a good time to remind everyone to look at their wires coming from the street including our fiber and do some trimming if necessary. Should the MLP spend money doing this maintenance or contribute to the tree trimming maintenance needed along some town roads? Becky will communicate with our Tree Warden about this issue, discussion to be continued.

Set Next Meeting	
	Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 5:30pm