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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
BROADBAND BOND HEARING
February 17, 2021

Ms. Pitt stated, as Chairman of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Chairman Pitt opened the bond hearing at 8:05 pm. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during the meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Roll call attendance:

Chairman Pitt	Yes – Present on Zoom	No one else in the room
Selectman Paight	Yes – Present on Zoom	No one else in the room
Selectman Nelson	Yes – Present on Zoom	No one else in the room

Also present in the Zoom bond hearing was Ellen Smith, Town Administrator; Jeff McIver, Mike Cannon and Tripp Legendre of Consolidated Communications, members of the broadband advisory committee and members of the public.

Chairman Pitt stated that in accordance with NH RSA 32:5 I, notice of this public hearing was published on February 8th in the Keene Sentinel and posted at the Town Office and Post Office as well as contained in a mailer that was delivered through the US Postal Service Every Door Direct Mail. This hearing also is being held in compliance with and pursuant to RSA 33, specifically RSA 33:3 and NH RSA 33:8-a 1, procedure for bond authorization.

Chairman Pitt stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to consider a broadband infrastructure bond. The Town's contribution to the project is \$965,500. The total cost of the project is \$1,702,200. The bond would have a 20 year term through the NH Bond Bank. The rate is not set yet, but it will be a fixed rate. Rates in January 2021 were 1.58% and we expect our rate would be slightly higher. The purpose of the bond is to cover the construction costs of the infrastructure to bring broadband to each residence. This is a public/private partnership with Consolidated Communications for the project. According to the contract Marlborough has negotiated with Consolidated, to be executed after approval at Town Meeting on 3/16/21, Consolidated will construct and operate the network for a period of 20 years. A 3/5 vote will be required by paper ballot. There is no tax payer money in this project. Consolidated will pay the monthly carrying costs for the life of the bond.

Chairman Pitt asked if there were any questions.

Selectman Nelson read a question regarding why only one response to RFP and that Consolidated Communications has a F rating with Better Business Bureau. Jeff McIver replied he had no information regarding the Better Business Bureau rating, however Consolidated is putting plans into place for a better future. The improvement from copper to fiber will be a night and day difference. Chairman Pitt stated that the RFP went to all providers. Marlborough had held back to see how early

towns failed in the process. Possibly other providers could not compete with the requirements of Marlborough's RFP. She noted that the broadband advisory committee threw all but the kitchen sink into the RFP to get the very best result for Marlborough. Eleven other towns have committed to move forward into a public/private partnerships with Consolidated as well.

Chairman Pitt asked for any questions or comment. Having none, she noted that the broadband bond will be a warrant article presented at the Town Business Meeting on March 16. The meeting starts at 7 pm and will be held at the Marlborough School. Because of the pandemic, Town Meeting will be different this year. Voting for local elections will be held on March 9 from 1:00-9:00 pm. The business meeting will be held on March 16 at 7:00. These changes were made to accommodate social distancing in the gym.

Selectman Nelson read a question: Do terms of the contract prevent another provider coming to Marlborough? Chairman Pitt answered, no, there is no exclusivity. Open competition. Any provider is welcome to compete.

Kris Arnold asked if other providers could use the same fiber? Jeff McIver replied no.

Seeing no further questions, Selectman Paight moved to adjourn the hearing at 8:23 pm. Seconded by Selectman Nelson. Roll call vote: Pitt—yes, Paight—yes, Nelson—yes. Motion passed and the bond hearing was closed.

Submitted by,

Gina Paight