

CONNECTMAINE

Authority Members: Denise Garland - Susan Corbett - Liz Wyman
Fred Brittain - Nick Battista - Jeffrey Letourneau

April 22, 2020

ConnectME Authority – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions: Authority Board Members: Fred Brittain, Susan Corbett, Liz Wyman, Nick Battista and Jeff Letourneau

Authority Staff: Peggy Schaffer and Brooke Johnson

2. Approval of Minutes: Susan Corbett motions to approve the minutes and Fred Brittain seconds the motion. All were in favor.

3. Monthly Financials: Brooke Johnson reviewed the monthly financials. ConnectMaine paid \$299,751.33 in expenses for the month of April. The ending balance was \$817,074.17. Additional future obligations were discussed leaving a final cash balance of \$653,454.17. The Board accepted the monthly financials. Brooke Johnson also discussed the new assessment money that was due 4/15/2020 and so far, we have received \$138,605. There are still 30 late filers but Solix does not expect this amount to increase much. The new assessment is less than predicted.

4. Director Report: Peggy Schaffer discussed the current grant round and that we have been talking with applicants over the past few weeks. Peggy Schaffer also mentioned she has been speaking with other states who receive large funding amounts and how they manage larger grants. Peggy Schaffer mentioned that the PUC submitted comments on the RDOF funding a few weeks ago.

5. Covid-19 Update: Peggy Schaffer discussed the numerous calls ConnectMaine has received in regard to the lack of broadband or inadequate broadband. These calls have been forwarded to our office from multiple sources and we are addressing them as they come in. Peggy Schaffer also mentioned that in our Action Plan there is a track for the funding of the “small dark pockets.”

6. Digital Inclusion Discussion: Susan Corbett describes what digital inclusion is and how it impacts the economy. Susan Corbett reviewed the data from her organization showing who is taking her classes, like what age and what region and what type of class. Susan Corbett has put together a how to guide on absentee ballot and will be distributing that shortly. Susan Corbett asked if there is any other questions on the application for classes that ConnectMaine would like to see the data from and she will gladly add and share the data because this information is important for ConnectMaine.

7. Other Business: Peggy Schaffer mentioned we need Board members to volunteer for scoring grants in May and that we should discuss at the May Board meeting if and when we will open up a next grant round. It was mentioned that the bond will be on the ballot in July.

8. Public Comments: N/A

Board meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.