

CONNECTME



State of Maine

ConnectME Authority

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www.Maine.gov/connectme/

Authority Members - Denise Garland - Susan Woods - Bruce Williamson – Fred Brittain

October 25, 2019

ConnectME Authority – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions: Authority Board Members: Sue Woods, Jeff McNelly, Fred Brittain and Doug Birgfeld

Authority Staff: Brooke Johnson and Peggy Schaffer.

Members of the public were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Audit Presentation: Bob Dube presented the findings from the FY19 audit. The opinion of the auditing company is the financial statements in the report present fairly, in all material aspects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and major fund of ConnectME Authority as of June 30, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Fred Brittain motions to approve the audit and Jeff McNelly seconds the motion. All were in Favor.
3. Rulemaking: Peggy Schaffer explained the additional funding source and that ConnectME is currently in the process of a rulemaking for the new surcharge of 10 cents per line or number that will be on each customer's bill. Comments are due November 15th. Ben Sanborn suggested we title the new surcharge something other than the ConnectME surcharge. Peggy Schaffer explained that the AG's office said by statute we had to have the words ConnectME surcharge in the title.
4. Budget Discussion and Monthly Financials: Brooke Johnson reviewed the monthly financials. ConnectME paid \$70,050 in grant payments for the month of October and the ending balance is \$896,027.71. Peggy Schaffer reviewed the updated proposed budget and explained that she decreased the amounts for all the new initiatives. Doug Birgfeld motions to approve the proposed budget and Jeff McNelly seconds the motion. All were in favor.
5. Approval of September 27, 2019 Minutes: Doug Birgfeld motions to approve the minutes and Fred Brittain seconds the motion.
6. Director Report: Peggy Schaffer discussed the upcoming Maine Broadband Coalition Conference on Monday and Tuesday at Thomas College and she also talked about the numerous phone calls from Communities asking when our next round of funding will be and how much ConnectME will be awarding. Peggy Schaffer provided a brief update on the State Economic Strategic Plan and that it is due to the Governor by November 15th.

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7. Other Business: N/A
8. Public Comments: Ben Sanborn discussed his involvement in the State's Economic Plan because there is a workforce issue for TAM members.

Board meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.