

CONNECTME

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

November 22, 2019

ConnectME Authority – Meeting Notes

1. Introductions: Authority Board Members: Sue Woods, Jeff McNelly, Fred Brittain and Denise Garland

Authority Staff: Brooke Johnson and Peggy Schaffer.

Members of the public were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Presentation: Clarence Young Director of GIS Services, Sewall: Clarence Young walked us through the new ConnectME public viewing map. The mapping is currently being tested by users but should go live the first week in December. The map allows viewers to type in any location, town or County and see who the providers are and what type of broadband is available to the street level. The streets are different colors based on the level of service available.
3. Approve Rulemaking: Peggy Schaffer explained that we received two comments on our Rulemaking. One requesting the fee not be imposed and the second was from TAM suggesting alternate language for the identification of the fee on customer bills and adding a definition of “line” for the purposes of collecting the fee. Fred Brittain motions to adopt the amended rule and Jeff McNelly seconds the motion. All were in favor.
4. Monthly Financials: Brooke Johnson reviewed the monthly financials. ConnectME paid \$103,158.75, in grant payments for the month of November and the ending balance is \$819,513.86. Jeff McNelly suggested the financials be formatted different and the proposed budget be a column next to the actuals. He also suggested we approve the financial every month and Fred Brittain suggested we don’t approve them but accept them.
5. Approval of October 25, 2019 Minutes: Denise Garland motions to approve the minutes and Jeff McNelly seconds the motion to approve the minutes as amended. All were in favor.
6. Director Report: Peggy Schaffer talked about her updating the current State of Maine Broadband Action Plan. She mentioned that the Governor had a meeting with all the providers in the State. Peggy Schaffer explained that we have not yet heard from the USDA regarding the State of Maine grants. The State’s 10- year Strategic Plan was delivered to the Governor, who is currently looking it over and it will be released in the 1st week of December. PEW’s Report from their visits will be released in February and they would like to come back to Maine for more interviews in March.
7. Other Business: N/A
8. Public Comments: Ben Sanborn discussed the provider meeting that was held with the Governor.

Board meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.