



Town of Henniker
Broadband Committee
Wednesday, October 04, 2023, 4:30 pm
Henniker Town Hall and Virtual

Members Present in Person: Marc McMurphy, Diane Kendall, Bob Pagano, Jesse Pinnell
Members Present Virtual: Carol Miller – Broadband initiative Director
Members Excused: Carol Conforti-Adams, Paul Knudsen
Selectboard Representative: D. Scott Osgood, virtual
Others: Carol Miller – Broadband initiative director
Recording Secretary: Jesse Pinnell
Guests: Monica Thibault and Bryan Christiansen with Government Affairs for Comcast

The meeting started at 4:28 PM. Introductions were made, with Ms. Thibault announcing she will be taking over the Henniker project for Comcast. The committee had invited Mr. Christiansen to discuss Comcast's response to the recent Request for Proposals (RFP). He elaborated on the company's plan to extend service to 405 addresses over the next year, combining their original expansion plan with the unserved addresses identified by the committee's RFP. Mr. Christiansen was confident that virtually all these setups will be completed around this time next year as part of a rolling activation.

The timeline was reviewed, indicating that the majority of new setups are expected to be done within the next 6-12 months. Some are already ahead in the procedure as the last pole applications were submitted after the RFP response. Comcast will pursue customers actively once the infrastructure is in place, including sending door-to-door salespeople.

Mrs. Miller asked for a spreadsheet of the actual addresses that would be served and confirmed with Bryan that a specific address requested by a resident is on the list. Mr. McMurphy asked if the committee needed to do anything to support the build-out. Mr. Christiansen replied that Comcast would handle everything. Bryan suggested that homeowners should accept the work up to their doors when offered, as future owners would have to fund this themselves.

Mr. McMurphy then inquired about the Affordability Connectivity Program (ACP) in the context of this build-out. Comcast is not seeking funds from the BMGI but will offer an "Internet Essentials" plan at \$9.99/month as part of the ACP program. Mr. Christiansen noted that funding for the ACP is running low.

Mrs. Miller mentioned that the "Internet Essentials" program initially required having children but now has eligibility requirements similar to ACP. She also noted that ACP sign-up events are held at town halls and libraries.

Mr. McMurphy requested that Comcast's RFP response be forwarded to the committee. He also asked if there was any point in the committee continuing to meet aside from preparing information for the select board. Mr. Pagano agreed there might not be a need. Ms. Kendall suggested that a report on the project be included in the annual town report. Discussion followed on the possible reduction or elimination of some government programs.

Mr. McMurphy proposed that the committee create and review a report in November for inclusion in the annual report. Mrs. Miller recommended tracking the construction progress to ensure there are no gaps. Mr. McMurphy suggested taking a break until a final review in February.

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Mr. Pagano and seconded by Mr. Pinnell, receiving unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM following a motion by Mr. Pagano, seconded by Mr. Pinnell, with unanimous approval.

Next meeting November 1st, 2023, at 4:30 pm Henniker Town Hall and Virtual

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Pinnell, Minute Taker
