

Jaffrey Economic Development Council
Draft Minutes 05/15/19

9:00 am Town Office

Present: Peter Chamberlain, Chair, Larry Alvarez, Cathy Furze, Sam Hackler, Stephanie Niemela, Mike Shea

Staff: Jo Anne Carr, Director
Jon Frederick, Town Manager

Public: Carl Querforth, Tory McCagg

Presenting: Rob Koester, Jeff McIver Consolidated Communications

1. Consolidated Communications

Rob opened the presentation summarizing Senate Bill 170 which was signed into law last spring allowing towns to bond for the expansion of broadband infrastructure where service is documented at a rate less than 25Mbps down and 3Mbps up (sync rate at the modem).

Recently Consolidated entered into a public / private partnership with the town of Chesterfield. In order to document a town's coverage a request for information has to be sent to all providers and then the town can map a map from that data. Rural areas are generally in the 10Mbps down 1Mbps up. Consolidated shared a map of town depicting service availability.

A comparison between the cost of copper versus fiber optic to the home yields a slightly higher cost for fiber, but gains in lower maintenance costs. Example to serve 2000 homes in a community the cost of copper installation is \$1.8M and the cost of Fiber is \$2.1M.

Chesterfield, NH entered into a public/private partnership with Consolidated Communications as allowed by SB 170. The town documented that service was well below the 25 x 3 and put out an RFQ for services. The bond and contract had to win Town Meeting approval. Consolidated won the bid and through the contract is responsible for the bond payments, 1st payment at \$250,000. Each subscribing customer pays an additional \$10/month, and Consolidated pays the difference. The town owns the network for the period of the bond with an irrevocable right to use granted to Consolidated. At the end of the bond term, Cons Com owns the asset. It was noted that terms of ownership need further investigation as this was the first such project to be contracted in NH.

Attention was then on broadband service in Jaffrey. See attached handout. Out of 3,680 addresses and 8 serving units it appears that 33% of existing subscribers are at or have access to maximum speed (80Mbps). Data shows that while the majority of customers access up to 7M the majority (60%) could be accessing from 20-80M download speeds. While there are gaps in the data, and ground truthing needs to be completed. Fully 80% of the town (by address) can access 10M or higher.

Consolidated can share their data through a Nondisclosure agreement for the Town's use. A similar request should be made to the other providers to provide a more complete map of services across town.

2. Other Business – as the discussion ran the full hour we did not address other business this month.

- a. CIP Committee Representation
- b. Election of Officers: Postponed

3. Adjourn

Next Meeting Date: June 19, 2019 @ 9:00 AM