

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting June 19, 2018

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Bryant Scott, Scott Young

In attendance: Eric Rowe, Liz Nolin, Ashley Rowe, Ed Merrill, Aaron & Jessica Leff, Mike Finnell, Linda Kopreski, Eric Almanzan, Siobhan Norris

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:45PM.

Bills and payroll were reviewed and approved. Correspondence from the Atlantic Broadband's attorney regarding the options available for service to the Parsons Hill Road/Evans Mountain Road was read and briefly discussed.

The meeting adjourned to the conference room to accommodate the number of those in attendance. Ms. Sweet introduced Ashley Rowe, who has researched the feasibility of improved internet service to the Parsons Road/Evans Mountain area of Town and Ed Merrill, General Manager of Atlantic Broadband (formerly Metrocast). Mr. Merrill presented some history of the situation, beginning with the last franchise agreement nearly 10 years ago. The area was to be served but Metrocast, but they had been unable to secure a right of way off Parker Mountain Road to bring service up Parsons Hill Road. To bring service in through French Road did not meet the density requirement outlined in the franchise. In the intervening years, unsuccessful attempts have been made to gain that right of way via Parsons Hill Road. Most recently the viatic use of the road has been explored. The Town attorney and Atlantic Broadband's attorney are not in agreement as to the legality of that plan.

Mr. Merrill then presented Atlantic Broadband's 3 options for bringing service to that area.

Option 1 – the neighbors in the area could share the cost of bringing in the cable via French Road, which would be more than \$50,000.

Option 2 – the Town could pick up the cost and make payment arrangements with Atlantic Broadband, perhaps by applying the Franchise fees the Town receives to the cost incurred.

Option 3 – With the Franchise agreement expiring next year, 2019, Atlantic Broadband would be willing to cover the cost of bringing in service via French Road for an early renewal of the Franchise Agreement. This plan would service more homes (currently 33) than would a line coming up Parsons Hill Road. There would be no "cost" to the Town or residents.

Atlantic Broadband has plans are in place if the Board approves bringing service via French Road, and work could start "tomorrow". Service via Parsons Hill Road would not be as readily available as plans need to be drawn up.

Mr. Ashley Rowe, Evans Mountain Road, asked if the legal issues of the right of way were solved, would Atlantic Broadband be willing to bring the service in via Parsons Hill Road.

At this point Mr. Ashley Rowe spoke, giving a brief history of the deeds involved in the claim of ownership of the road, and does not believe the record supports the property owner's claim to ownership of the road. He stated that Parsons Hill Road is a Town road, built and maintained by the

Town, and that RSA 231:161 clearly gives the Town authority to license utilities on any Class V Highway. Mr. Rowe seemed confident that his research and State Statute give the Board everything they need to proceed via Parsons Hill Road. Mr. Rowe presented the Board with a petition signed by residents in the neighborhood requesting the Selectmen to license Atlantic Broadband to install their transmission line on Parsons Hill Road without delay.

John Page attended the Selectmen's meeting to report on the progress of the cleanup of his property. He reported that he has taken out an additional 10-20,000 pounds of "stuff". He is waiting for paperwork and titles on before he can dispose of other vehicles. He has also removed some batteries. Ms. Sweet explained the seriousness of the RSA pertaining to junkyards. She recommended a YouTube video made by NH Municipal Association which explains the implications and requirements of the law. The Selectmen's Office will send him a link to the video, as well as the accompanying PowerPoint notes.

Lifeguard staffing for the beach was discussed. On Thursday the 21st only one lifeguard is available, so there will be no lifeguard on duty, but that one guard will be at the beach to sell passes and accept swim lesson registrations. The locked gate on Province Road has already been vandalized; the Selectmen's Office will contact 125 Fence for the repair.

The Selectmen's Office has spoken with Rick Turner, one owner Mountain View Drive, about repairing the road where it meets Parker Mountain Road. Mr. Turner is aware of the problem and the need for repair; he will contact the other owner. The Selectmen's Office will follow-up with a letter.

Staffing at the Recycling Center was briefly discussed. Mr. Young is meeting with Ben Francum, Greg Messenger and the electrician about the new shed on July 20th. Some thoughts were shared about the proposed concrete floor and the shed to be purchased.

The July 3rd Selectmen's meeting will be cancelled.

The Selectmen discussed the situation with Atlantic Broadband and will withhold decision until they are advised by the Town attorney concerning service off Parker Mountain Road via Parsons Hill Road.

Eric Almanzan, Overlook Lane, spoke with Board members to get clarification on some aspects of the zoning ordinance pertaining to fences. In particular, it seemed unclear to him what the reasonable distance from the neighbor's property necessary for maintenance might be for placement of the fence.

There being no further business it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM