



# Town of Minot

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[www.minotme.org](http://www.minotme.org)

Board of Selectmen & Budget Committee  
Minot Town Office  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 6:30 pm  
Joint Meeting Minutes\*

**Present:** Chairman Steve French, Vice Chairman Daniel Gilpatric, Lisa Cesare and Brittany Hemond

**Budget Committee:** Matthew Callahan, Bernice Fraiser, Denis Decoster, Timothy Worden, and William Perry.

**Absent:** Daniel Callahan

**Staff:** Danielle Loring (Administrator) and Colleen Quint (Broadband Committee Chair)

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman French called the joint meeting to order at 6:30pm and a quorum of both groups was present.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Committee Presentations**

**a. Committee Overview – Danielle Loring, Town Administrator**

Mrs. Loring summarized the Committee requests for Town affiliated groups. She explained that the Cemetery Committee was reducing their request from \$5,000 to \$2,500, while maintaining \$500 for contracted services for garden maintenance and allocating the funds necessary for the software licensing. She explained that the group wanted funds in order to make any corrections to the drainage system, if necessary, as well as do any necessary tree work, begin expanding parking and work toward fixing the building at Center Minot Hill Cemetery.

Next, she explained that they were maintaining the same request for the Recreation Department because True Green was going to continue ground maintenance. She was going to begin looking into grants to improve the facilities at the Community and Memorial Fields where there was an increase in the demand for outdoor activities.

**b. Broadband Committee Request – Colleen Quint, Committee Chair**

Ms. Quint gave the history for broadband expansion efforts in Minot, including hiring Casco Bay Advisors to complete the feasibility study and the negotiations with potential internet service providers (ISPs). In the spring, the Town was negotiating with GWI to be included in their second round of funding from the ConnectME Authority, but Minot's build out costs were considered too high for the number of potential subscribers and the grant was not awarded.

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\*Written minutes serve as reference to the official record, which are recordings kept at the Town Office.  
Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Meeting Minutes Dated October 27, 2020

\*Items may be taken out of order at the Chairman's discretion

Since then, the group has been investigating other solutions and were working on a deal with a different ConnectME grant with FirstLight to connect 150 homes or roughly 50% of the unserved households in Minot. In order to make the grant successful, the Town would need to commit 25% of the project costs, which is \$100,000. The group was mindful of the potential constraints to revenues given the current pandemic and was suggesting a resolution that would break up the costs between tax revenues and Undesignated Funds and look to spread the costs over multiple years, if possible.

Mr. Worden explained that these were the sort of projects that made him proud to be in Minot, because it was serving the greater needs of the community and making it a more desirable place to live. Mr. Gilpatric agreed and gave examples of homes that would have been built if internet had been available. Ms. Quint also shared examples of people who had moved to Town but learned after that internet was not available to them, which hindered their ability to work from home and this was further exacerbated by the current crisis and the need to have reliable, affordable service.

**4. General Budget Discussion**

**5. Adjourn**

The joint meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
Steve French, Chairman	Daniel W. Gilpatric, Vice Chairman	
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Daniel Callahan, Jr.	Lisa Cesare	Brittany Hemond

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