



# Town of Minot

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Broadband Committee/Task Force

Minot Town Office

Monday, January 27, 2020, 6:30 pm

**Attendees:** Kerry Bonney, Bill Burke, Danielle Loring, Lisa Cesare, Rory McGuire, Dan Poirier, Michael Lebrun, Brittany Hemond, Ned Newell, Gary Cyr, Matt Sweatt

## Meeting Minutes:

First, I want to thank all of you who attended the last meeting. It was very nice to meet all of you and feel that we are off to a great start. Based on discussions, we came up with the following goals/objectives (in no particular order):

- Create opportunities for people to work where they live
- Provide people of all ages access to education and distance learning
- Provide access to telehealth services and distance healthcare opportunities (ex: "Aging in place")
- Expand and support municipal services
- Increased opportunities for businesses, agriculture and tourism
- Attract young families/individuals to live in town
- Expand potential for alternative energy (can rely on broadband to monitor)

I am sure that there is potential for these to change as we continue to meet. I will work to get these on to the Town's website as well as additional information that we discussed at the meeting.

One of the discussions was regarding the Town's Cable Franchise Agreement and how that language translated to an outcome. Minot does have the 15 homes/mile in the current agreement, and we have requested that they build out a couple areas meeting that requirement (Hadfield/Hatfield and Jeffery/Millett) and the response that we got back was that the hubs used to transmit the signal came from another town so the channel line up would be different. This is a poor excuse, but the one they are using. The provisions state that any place that they will not build out can be done at the expense of the resident and will be reimbursed \$500. The language also refers to there not being another cable competitor in the area for this provision to take effect. However, Matt Sweatt also found that the language that they used refers to a service used by hotel chains, so there may be some hope there. It was the general consensus that this would be the most cost effective route to take as we discussed getting people to higher speed internet (higher than the broadband definition of 25/3) vs general internet access vs going for new technologies. In the end, nothing is off the table for consideration.

This leads into another outcome of the meeting was the assignment to get ISP contact information for relevant people to discuss the Town's feasibility study. This is so that a core group could then schedule meeting with those individuals in the hopes of achieving cost estimates to expand their services in Town. They were assigned as follows (I apologize if I noted incorrectly or forgot anyone):

- Colleen Quint - Spectrum
- Ned Nelson - Consolidated Communications
- Danielle Loring - GWI
- ? - First Light

I believe that others were also going to reach out to a couple other communities to discover how they had achieved their build outs. I believe that Otisfield and Ellsworth were a couple of places discussed.

Next, we discussed what a realistic timeline would be. We felt that given the time it would take to schedule meetings, have the deliver cost information, and negotiate a partnership, it was unlikely that we were going to meet the deadlines for the March ConnectME grant and calling in close for the May deadline, if at all. This lead to discussion regarding other grant opportunities such as the MaineCF, that was shared at the meeting, and looking to Town generated revenues, such as permit fees or setting up a TIF. These were seen as low hanging fruit that should happen sooner rather than later.

Finally, there is a lot going on on the State-level right now, including planning and legislation. The Maine Broadband Coalition has an email group where they send out information about these items. Would this group like me to forward relevant correspondence or do you want you want to sign up on your own? One of the items shared was the State of Maine's Broadband Plan, which I have attached and think it would be good to discuss at our next meeting, which is Monday, February 3rd at 6:30 at the Town Office.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.