



# Town of Minot

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

Broadband Committee/Task Force

Minot Town Office

Monday, June 22, 2020, 6:30 pm

**Attendees:** Colleen Quint, Danielle Loring, Lisa Cesare, Rory McGuire, Brittany Hemond, Matt Swett, Brian Liopold, Doug Doherty

## Meeting Minutes:

### Referendum

- The referendum that will be on the ballot on July 14. Link is below. Selectman will discuss at next meeting and look for a vote of support at the 6/29/20 meeting. Danielle and team will provide verbiage on our web site that the selectman and the committee support the referendum and how it could benefit us as we move forward.
- We should also add to the Town's Facebook page and our personal pages to increase awareness.
- [https://ballotpedia.org/Maine\\_Question\\_1,\\_High-Speed\\_Internet\\_Infrastructure\\_Bond\\_Issue\\_\(July\\_2020\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Maine_Question_1,_High-Speed_Internet_Infrastructure_Bond_Issue_(July_2020))

### GWI updates

- We were not approved by the Connect ME fund through GWI. We have not seen the full report, but Brian did say that our numbers were low, total score came in at 80. Much of this was due to how the overall cost of the project versus the potential subscribers being around \$2322.00 which is very high. That number should be below \$1000.00 and preferably below \$500.00.
- We discussed when the next round of grants might be available. Brian said the Connect ME board is going through a restructuring of scoring and will work with the state on new grant rules. The outcome of the referendum will also determine availability of monies and changes. Brian did discuss that having presence at the board meetings is important. Lisa did attend last week and will attend the 6/24 meeting for at least the first hour and introduce herself. Expectations is that the next round would not likely come before November or December of this year.
- Brian also discuss the optimum breakdown of costs being 25% each local, private, state and federal money to support build out. Minot will need to think about a local share amount and how to build that into our budget. 2021 may be a difficult year but board will discuss what the town can handle in the budget process.
- Colleen discussed how we could reach out to the residents in our unserved area and determine what their appetite is for their own willingness to contribute to a connector fee.

### Spectrum or other Providers

- Brian discussed that our goals and vision needs to be updated to include our technologic approach to what we want to provide. The team had various discussions on this as we do not feel that we would ever take on a project to provide fiber to the home for all residents. We should continue to refine our approach and add to our goals. For now, we agreed on 100up/25 down as the minimum speed of connection, how we get there is not our overall concern.
- Brian will take our report and send it out to all known and available contractors including, Spectrum, GWI, Matrix Broadband, Pioneer, Consolidated and start the process. It was noted that all of these

providers do not like to compete with each other or cross over into other areas that are built out. It was stressed that we need to fine tune our goals and vision.

**Open Discussion:**

- Rory talked about educating our residents and potentially creating documentation on how to manage own in-house issues and what to look for and how to better manage what we have.

**Next meeting: Monday July 6, 2020 6:30pm**

Current goals and objectives from earlier this year.

- 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)