



# Town of Minot

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

Broadband Committee/Task Force  
Minot Town Office  
Monday, July 6, 2020, 6:30 pm

**Attendees:** Colleen Quint, Danielle Loring, Lisa Cesare, Matt Swett, Brian Lioppold, Kerry Bonney

## Meeting Minutes:

Met with GWI and went over our unfinished roads not just the ones we had them initially looked at, waiting on a full cost assessment from them on how much it would be and a break down of town costs versus theirs. This could turn into an eligible project for the next round of Connect ME funding.

Spectrum would be the most logical company to be able to help us access the Cares Act Funding since they have a presence, they are just hard to get them to negotiate.

Consolidated may be willing to come to the table but they prefer to do projects where nothing exists.

## What can we do:

Subscribers that might sign up for service, pre-service? How do we convince them to sign up and to what term?? GWI has brought this up. From the provider we need some pricing. We need a plan once we have all the information available to solicit our residents. We should look at knocking on doors or have a good marketing plan.

Need to be collecting data on households that need internet for school, work, health, etc so that we have better information for the grant process and to understand willingness to contribute to the costs of connecting to the service.

Encourage everyone to sign up for StarLink. It can't hurt. The Beta test is \$3.00 a month they send you the hardware but you have to sign an non-disclosure.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. next call and our marketing plan is our agenda plus Brian's update.

## Updates from Brian

- Brian has provided our full report to GWI and Consolidated. He has had meetings with both and has asked for proposals to provide service to all un-cabled roadways. He has further asked what sum they would invest and what other sources they have access to. He is looking for response and further discussion with their engineers.
- Report was sent out to other providers and he is looking to have similar conversations with them.
- There are several providers that have no interest in helping us pursue our goals.
- Spectrum has not been contacted yet.
- Discussed that through the Cares Act there would be 60 million dollars that the state is looking at helping with the build out of internet infrastructure by year end. It was noted that those funds would

flow through the Connect ME board and is highly political. Not sure if we have a true path or chance to secure any of the monies. Colleen noted that she will try and do some investigative work.

- We also discussed that it would look more favorable in receiving any funds if town of Minot was willing to appropriate funds, (raise taxes) to contribute to any providers to help secure the build out of the infrastructure. Brian agreed it can not hurt and does show commitment. Lisa's response was that they would look to add some amount in some verbiage to the warrant for 2021. The town will need to balance out the amount as we are still faced with uncertain times in regard to revenue, the school budget and the resident's wellbeing.
- Discussion that the Connect ME boards meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to noon and our presence will be noticed. Brian will email the group as he receives the invites to join.

### **Review of Goals and Objectives**

- We reviewed the document that Brian had sent to us and discussed a few points. Lisa will update it with our original goals and the few updates we would like to see added and send out with the minutes.

### **Communications on the Referendum**

- The board of selectman discussed and voted to fully support the passing of the bill. We were fortunate to have a nicely done write up in the Sun Journal last week and hope that residents of Minot and the state will support the funding.
- Lisa, Colleen and Danielle have posted to social media and the town's website our support of the bond and will continue to look for opportunities to discuss with voters and gain support for the vote.

**Next meeting: Monday July 20, 2020 6:30pm in person and option of TEAMS**