

## **Westmoreland Broadband Advisory Committee Dec 19, 2019 Committee Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Chris Ballou, JJ Prior, John Snowdon

- 6:37 pm            Meeting called to order
- 6:37 – 6:40 :        All previous minutes approved
- 6:40 – 7:15:        Discussion about Dec 9 meeting and the concern from a participant that the video stream was edited to remove her comments. It was not and the suggestion is wrong. Continued with JS conversation with Bond Attorney. Bond Attorney stated Dec 9 Public Benefit Finding meeting should have been held by BoS – not WBAC - even though 2/3 of the BoS were in attendance. Suggestion by Bond Attorney is, in order to meet legal requirement of having 2 Public Benefit Finding meetings prior to Bond Hearing, the BoS should post a meeting notice and have another meeting on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, where JS can present the benefits of moving forward with a bond to create the 1G FTTP network that was thoroughly explained at the Dec 9 meeting. An unedited webcast of the event currently resides on the Town FB page, as well as a link to the video on the Town website. Suggestion was passed on to the BoS. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Benefit Finding meeting will be held on Saturday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am in the Westmoreland Town Hall. The BoS will ask the WBAC and CCI to discuss the findings and explain the proposed network. The Bond Informational Hearing for attaining a \$1.2 million bond to fund the network will immediately follow at 11:00 am.
- 7:15 – 7:30        Discussion about WBAC meeting with the Westmoreland PTA on Jan 14 and other small information meetings about the project were discussed to assure the town is fully prepared to vote on the bond warrant at the Town Meeting on March

10. A vote for approving the bond will start the creation of the network. The bond will only be paid by subscriber fees of \$11/month. If a resident does not wish to use the new service for ANY reason, they will not pay even 1 penny towards its creation. There is no tax impact on the Town as CCI will guarantee the bond payment for the duration of the 20-year term.

7:30: Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be held mid-January on a date TBD.

Respectfully submitted by : John Snowdon