

**Savoy Select Board
Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2023**

Members Present: Marie Saucier, Gerry Bergeron, Justin Kazcowski

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:01pm.

TOPICS:

- Meeting minutes approval
 - Unanimously approved minutes of November 14.
- Nominations of committee members and swearing in
 - Planning Board: Casey Pease, Barbara Tatten, Anthony Frachetti, Cosmo LaViola, and Bille Bushika
 - Finance Committee: Allen Haskins and Kathleen Luczynski
 - Cemetery Commission: Bill Saucier
 - Val Reiner, Town Clerk was available to swear those present.
- Jordan Koch requests a key to the main door.
 - Currently no extra keys found.
- Update: Adams sent COA contract. They will send the invoice soon.
 - Tabled until next meeting – no contract available.
- Plumbing in Town Hall needs work.
 - Tabled – no further information known.
- Parks and Rec Committee: Propose name change.
 - Park committee requested naming the park building: Savoy Hollow Community Center to allow for potential grant funding. The Select Board unanimously approved the name change.
- Petitions for joint or identical pole locations
 - After quick review it was determined there should be pole hearing.
- Sign treasury warrants
 - Completed
- Period of public comment
 - Brenda Smith suggested and volunteered to put the fill cabinets in order and clean out unnecessary documents per Massachusetts Municipal Retention Schedule. Gerry requested a copy of the schedule prior to approving.
- Selectman items:
 - Highway
 - Marie attended the Windsor SB meeting to discuss assistance with plowing. Windsor agreed to 8A, River Road, and Griffin Hill for the cost of sand, salt, and fuel. Details still to be worked out. Gerry expressed concern about being a priority and how in the past it didn't work.
 - Cheshire agreed to 116 to the town garage. Again, negotiation details.
 - Plainfield has not responded.

- Windsor had to increase their pay rate to attract candidates. Marie contacted MMA Human Resources section for wage survey and sample hiring processes. Access is pending \$100 fee.
- Run down of plow drivers was discussed.
- Gerry will take a more active role supervising the highway crew. He will be paid and forgo his SB pay. He will be checking with State Ethics. pay rate was not discussed.
- Grader is in NY and returning. It will be able to v-blade plow and grade but front wheel cannot be repaired so AWD will not function.
- Received quote for plow on the loader with snow tires.

Adjourned at 5:46pm to move to The Fire Station for Internet Discussion.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting call to order at 6:02 at the Fire Station

- Brian Foucher – WiValley under new ownership, Ring Squared/Access Plus.
 - Summary of current fixed wireless status. 128 installed, 87 active.
 - Borden Mountain online.
 - 24/7 support will be provided by Ring Squared/Access Plus, not Otelco/GoNetSpeed
 - Acquisition expected to be completed by end of year.
 - Brian introduced Chaz Garity from Ring Squared/Access Plus. Access Plus/Ring Squared has fiber from North Adams to Great Barrington today.
 - Plan is to bring fiber to all the homes in Savoy. Opportunity for hybrid or redundancy via fixed wireless.
 - Access Plus will be applying for next level funding and looking for a letter of support from the town.
 - If Access Plus does not receive funding, they still expect to build out fiber to the town. The priority and timing may shift if that happens.
- John Maher – Charter/Spectrum
 - Provided handout of company's national and Massachusetts presence.
 - Received RDOF funding for building fiber internet to specific addresses in Savoy. Expect to have services to customers by end of Feb 2024, weather dependent.
 - Looking for Select Board to sign franchise agreement for cable tv services also.
 - They will also be pursuing next level funding and looking for a letter of support from the town. The next level funding cannot be used for RDOF addresses.
- Open discussion:
 - Concerns regarding installation costs. Both companies referred questions to their websites.
 - Concerns about ariel and underground connections. Select Board increased franchise agreement in Spectrum Franchise Agreement to 250' from 150'.
 - Letters of support can be submitted by individuals. Templates to be placed on Facebook and website.
- Select board voted unanimously in favor of signing the Spectrum Franchise Agreement with the change in aerial connection to 250'. JK motioned with the amended change to 250' and MS seconded.
- Select board voted unanimously in favor of signing a letter of support (resolution of support) for both companies, Charter/Spectrum and Ring Squared/Access Plus in order to

allow options for residents. MS motioned and JK seconded. Letters need to be sent to companies by 12/6.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Glynn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm

Approved Date: 12-12-2023

Gerald Bergeron (Chair) *[Signature]*

Justin Kazcowski *[Signature]*

Marie Saucier *Marie E. Saucier*

Appendix A - Relevant documents:

- Pole Hearing documents
- Charter/Spectrum handout
- Spectrum Franchise Agreement

