

SELECTMEN MEETING

7:00 pm

Tuesday April 4, 2023

Fayette Central School

ROLL CALL OF SELECTMEN Lacy Badeau, Brian Holman, Jon Beekman, Toby Pond, Michael Carlson

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE Brent St. Clair, Chris Lynch, Marty Rigoulot, Anne Piroso, Ellie Andrews, Josiah Garcia, Michelle Briggs, Belinda Bothwick, Laurence and Marjorie Bruen, Scott Pelletier, Sarah Jancarik, Rick Keen, Renee Keen, Heather Chalmers, Deb Dubord, Dennis Spencer, Andrew Butcher, Larissa Davis, Mark Jarrell, Marty Maxwell, Rachel Adams, Randy, Adam L, Roy Krout, Diane Polky, Holly York, Jeff Davis, Jed Davis, Maggie Chadwick, Bob Weimont, Jamie Ward, Mary Ann Hayes

23-33 Maine Connectivity Authority President

Andrew Butcher summarized the background of why he is here, and explained why the first proposal failed, due to a misunderstanding of the meaning of financial capability in the initial application process.

Jon Beekman asked that since the application was endorsed by the Last Mile Committee, if it needed to go to vote again,

Are there any other broadband providers who are new to Maine, and were they successful in obtaining grants. Andrew said there was one other newcoming company, and they were not successful.

Michael Carlson asked if April will be the last vote. The April meeting is when the Board will be making a decision, if it is a final decision there won't be another vote, but if the Board determines there needs to be more information provided, which he doesn't consider a desirable outcome, then they will have to

Michael asked if Andrew can think of any other information that could be provided by Matrix that hasn't been asked by the board. Andrew does not think at this time there is anything else that Matrix could provide. They have been very forthcoming with information requested.

Lacy asked when the next round of grant funding opens. Andrew said the next round of Connect the Ready grant process is looking to have guidance posted in May or June, with the applications being accepted in July or early August.

Resident Mark Jarrell thanked Andrew for coming this evening and advocating for Fayette, and asked if he was aware of the discussion of the objective merits of Matrix is being held in executive session.

Andrew said that there is proprietary and confidential information that is shared in these proposals, and by discussing them in executive session they are able to request and review more information.

Michael Carlson wanted to 572 in favor 179 opposed. The Board Chairman noted that Matrix had excessive estimations of take rates in Fayette is a factor in tabling their decisions, and this 579 is more than Matrix had reported. About half of Fayette's tax bills are mailed out of the town of Fayette

Andrew encouraged the Town to provide this information so that he may share that with the board.

Marty Maxwell asked if the Board was aware that we had a presentation from Fidium, and that they had projected Fayette wouldn't be a priority for at least 3-4 more years. Andrew said that he did not know that, but is familiar with Fidium.

Andrew went over the timeline for April. There is an internal staff review of materials later this week. They will then translate that into the committee packet, which will be shared on Monday for the committee meeting on April 14. The results of that meeting will be compiled and shared with the board on the 15th, in preparation for the Board meeting at 12:30 on the 21st of April.

Mark noted that there was a good conversation between MCA and Matrix on Friday, and asked if there was more information that needed to be submitted. Andrew believes there were a few requests for specification and clarification.

Chris Lynch noted that while he has been presenting, half of the information had been emailed over, and the other half should be along by the end of the day.

Yes the staff makes a recommendation to the committee and it is his responsibility to help the Board come to a conclusion. Andrew wants to emphasize that this is a board decision, but it is his responsibility to gather a full understanding of capability and specifications, and the responsibility of his staff to

Jon wants to add that in regards to our seasonal population, a large majority of these people come to Fayette from areas where they are working from home, and they cannot here. Andrew said that it is a tricky dynamic that they are seeing in communities around the state.

Brent St. Clair noted that what he is hearing is the same thing that the Town heard in March, being on the budget committee, this makes it that much harder to anticipate if tax dollars are going to be needed to be spent

Mark wants Andrew to focus on the 21st of April. He knows there will be a Last Mile committee meeting before this, and at the previous meeting one of the Board members congratulated Fayette and Wilton on being awarded this proposal. He inquired what the Town of Fayette can do to ensure that there will not be another delay. Andrew said that at the end of the day he can't pretend to know exactly what will be enough to ensure a board decision. Between April 7th and April 14th he will be making sure that everything that has been provided by Matrix will be reviewed by the staff and the board to get a board decision.

Mark asked Chris Lynch how much time Matrix needs to answer questions the MCA may need. Chris said that the most important concern of Matrix is that MCA is clear in their questions so that Matrix can provide clear and adequate responses. It's important to remember that Matrix has a lot of other projects happening, but that the Fayette project is very important to them, and they are committed to providing all the answers that they need.

Andrew said that by early next week any final questions should be asked. He said that at this point in the application process, MCA needs thorough and complete responses, which Matrix has been providing at this point.

Belinda Bothwick said she is one of the few residents in Fayette that has good internet, and asked how many other applications that have been reviewed have gone through this extensive process. Andrew said there are no others, and the primary reason is that Matrix is a new company doing business in the state. One question asked was about the level of services were provided, and the answer Matrix provided wasn't satisfactory to the Board. The Board wants to make sure that the information provided is accurate and detailed so that

It isn't uncommon to see aggressive responses for take rate, and if there is an overestimate on that, it could turn the application sideways, which makes the project fail.

Belinda asked that any assessment is going to depend on the parameters set by the MCA, is there a place where the board is exceeding the requirements of due diligence on this project? Andrew said part of the MCA responsibilities are to be stewards of federal and state funds as serious as possible and that they are enabling the maximum success of their partners.

Jon said that in the average take rate in 2021 was more than the take rate that Matrix was reporting. Andrew said that this is true, but the difference is that 100% of these existing providers have established themselves in Maine. This is a key distinction in this application. He wants to be transparent that this is a key factor in this application, although it is a good thing to have new business in Maine.

Andrew invited Mark to share his personal email for anyone who may have additional questions. He appreciates the effort Mark has put into ensuring this is a successful application.

Belinda said that the proposal for the town was going to be posted on the website, and said it has not been yet. Chris said that the hesitation in posting this is that the pricing levels depend on the grant funding.

Brent asked what his take was in what Andrew said, that there seemed to be some finger pointing back to Matrix. Chris believes Andrew and his team are in support of the project, it's just some Board members who aren't. There was a specific question on the application regarding how many locations are getting 100/20 mbps. The question did not ask about residential locations, and Matrix has tens of thousands of locations, which meant that they did not have to fill out an additional portion of the application, but MCA came back and wanted information regarding residential sites.

Brian Holman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Toby Pond.
VOTE: 4 – 0 (Jon Beekman stepped out of the room)

Meetings adjourned at 7:50

Public Hearing opened at 7:50

Solar Ordinance

Changes to our Land Use Ordinance

Draft 2024 budget

Scott Pelletier spoke on the necessity of getting started on the projects identified in the road committee report. The biggest portion of the budget this year is going to be road construction.

Michelle Briggs spoke about the new things happening at the library. They are expanding their programming exponentially, and the funds requested in the budget.

Public hearing closed at 8:49 p.m.

Reconvening selectboard meeting at 9:00 p.m.

23-34 Road paving bid results

Representative from Mainly Paving Jamie present, Spencer Paving Group Dennis Spencer present via zoom, and Scott Pelletier representing All States Asphalt.

As we sit here today there are approximately \$300,000 available today, and another \$300,000 proposed in the budget. Only \$200,000 is additional

229,000 in the account from last year

25,000 raised last year towards fire station parking lot

The Town authorized \$50,000 in surplus to be designated by Select Board. Whether this will or won't be used on broadband will be determined on April 21st.

Jamie from Mainly Paving thinks that these proposed roads are past the point of shim and overlay. There needs to be reclaiming and.....

These three roads all need attention in his position, reclaim and fine grade base would be his recommendation for those three roads.

Scott Pelletier with All States Paving said that part of the road committee recommendations was for XX, they put together a proposal

Pipe work has been done by the town, most of the ditches are in good shape. Part of this bid includes allowing the town crew to do some of the labor, as they are already on payroll.

Toby asked about what the difference is between what was done on route 17 last summer. Scott explained that what was done there is called "maintenance."

Michael asked what the estimated life of his proposal would be. Scott says it all depends on what is underneath, there could be really be soft parts.

Dennis Spencer said that he agrees all three roads need to be reclaimed. A cold mix could be used as a base and let it sit for a year before doing the overlay.

Mark noted that a portion of the bid was for the Fire Station parking lot, which needs some serious drainage work.

23-35 Warrants

Motion to approve the Town and School Payroll and accounts payable warrants #20 made by Michael Carlson, seconded by Jon Beekman. VOTE: 5 – 0

23-36 Board of Selectmen Comments

Lacy reminded the public that there are open Board of Selectmen and School Board seats. Papers have been taken out of for one seat on each board.

Brian reported that the Lands Committee met on the 29th, and meet again on the 12th.

Michael Carlson reported that the Solid Waste Committee is meeting on the 12th.

Toby asked if public works could get some gravel in on the culvert on Fayette Corner Road. Baldwin Hill, almost to the church, got ripped up pretty good. Mark said they were out patching this week, he will try to make sure they get to those.

Jon asked about street sweeping. Mark said they hope to send them out in the next few weeks. He is hoping to get some rain and let the roads harden up a bit first.

Michael Carlson said the silent auction for Starling Hall raised over \$3,000.

23-37 Executive Session regarding a personnel matter pursuant to MR.S.A. Title 1 §405 The BOS will enter executive session pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 1 §405. (Section 6. Permitted **deliberation.** Deliberations on only the following matters may be conducted during an executive session: Personnel

Motion made by Jon Beekman seconded by Michael Carlson to enter at 9:27 p.m. exit at 9:44 p.m.

Motion made by Jon Beekman to change the requirement of staff that receive health benefits to eliminate the policy of paying 5% of the benefit via payroll deduction for the 2024 budget year. Seconded by Toby Pond Vote 5 in favor 0 opposed

Adjournment

Motion made by Jon Beekman seconded by Brian Holman vote 5 in favor 0 opposed
At 9:46 p.m.