

**Town of Somerville, ME Municipal**  
**Broadband Board Minutes**  
**January 13, 2025**

**Location:** Zoom only

**Members Present:** Sharon Reishus, Jim R. Grenier, Bobbie Creamer, Jim Scheid, Doug Shartzter

**Guests Present:** Chris Johnson – Broadband Project Manager for the Town of Somerville, ME, Mark Ouellette - CEO of Axim Technologies, Julie Brown – Axiom Technologies

**Call to Order:** 6:00 PM By Sharon Reishus.

**A motion was made by Jim R. Grenier to accept the October, November, and December 2024 meeting Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Sharon Reishus.**

**The vote was unanimous, the Motion Carried.**

**Project updates;**

**Julie Brown** – gave an update on the project completion status. She reported;  
190 customer signups  
22 installed  
3 Differed (Seasonal)  
2 difficulty contacting  
18 scheduled for inside equipment installs.

**Mark Oulette/Chris Johnson** – Gave an update that they had created a final checklist of things ‘to be completed’ at the Central Office.  
Chris Johnson has arranged for the last of the baseboard plumbing to be completed.  
Windows Bars and security cameras still need to be installed to secure the Central Office.  
The back up generator test was successful.

**Sharon Reishus** asked for a general idea when the last signed up customer will be connected.  
Julie Brown claimed it was up to Hawkeye as Axiom is connecting customers within a week after the lines are tested and released by Hawkeye to Axiom. The cold has been affecting productivity.

**Doug Shartzter** asked **Julie Brown** for the Hawkeye completion numbers and the response was;

**Completed Drops to homes – 73.4% built out.**

**ONT’s built - 70% built**

**SNAP’s - 25% built**

**SNAP's Spliced - 9% completed**

**'Privacy'** was revisited by the Broadband Board to protect the customer list from public view. The town Lawyer was consulted about the matter and Mary Denison suggested using 'aggregate numbers' for customer counts

**Sharon Reishus** also inquired to the MCA/NTIA about what will happen to the money paid back by Consolidated Communications if the Town prevails in the case before the State Supreme Court. The Broadband Board still awaits an answer.

February ribbon cutting ceremony and activities were discussed

A preliminary budget was discussed, and numbers would need to be gathered.

**Jim Scheid** updated the Board members about the availability of local technicians to repair lines and provide tech support for the Somerville Broadband Infrastructure. This would be under the direction of Axiom Technologies.

The new insurance quote for General Liability and the Annual membership fees to be part of PURMA Municipal utility group was discussed.

**Doug Shartzter made a motion that** – The Somerville Municipal Broadband Board make the recommendation to the Town of Somerville, ME Selectboard accept and pay both the PURMA membership fee of \$1300.00 and the General Liability insurance yearly rate of \$8,145.35. The funds are to be refunded to the town through the take rate payments for the next fiscal year.

**All were in favor, the motion carried.**

**Sharon Reishus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Doug Shartzter**

**All were in favor, Motion Carried.**

\* **Meeting Adjournment 7:25 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Shartzter, Somerville Municipal Broadband Board, Secretary

Accepted:

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**Sharon Reishus (Board Chair)**

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**Doug Shartzter (Board Secretary)**