

Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10, 2026  
In-Person Meeting at 3:00 PM, Town Office

MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum

Chair Barry Wherren called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM, and a quorum was established with over 3 members present.

Members Present in Person: None

Members Present via Zoom: Barry Wherren, John Rex-Waller, Trevor Blackford, Patrick Nettles, Bruce Walker  
GWI Representatives: None present.

Others Present: Town Manager Janet Anderson, Tina Pendleton

Others Present via Zoom: Page Clason, Frank Start

2. Approval of minutes of December 9, 2025

**Motion: To approve Minutes of December 9, 2025, as written, P. Nettles, seconded by J. Rex-Waller. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

3. Old Business

a. Review of Wireless Connects to the outer islands

- B. Wherren reported that we have all the specs for the hardware sorted out. Nothing has been purchased yet because he wanted to make sure we have funds to cover it first.
- Now that the survey is done, and we know what our OSP fiber network maintenance expenses are going to be, we can move forward with the outer-islands project.
- We will just do one location initially as a test, to make sure that all goes well. If so, we'll roll it out to the other sites as well, then everything will be standardized on components, which should be simpler to maintain.

4. New Business

a. Review of Annual OSP Survey

- Barry stated he hoped to see Andy Palmer here to give us an overview, but he's not here.
- Members received a copy of the IMB Audit work estimate. It has a listing of all the work they intend to do, the bulk of which is pole transfers, and also wire cleanup. Andy found a couple of areas that need new cable put in, on Drexel Lane and Otter Creek Lane.
- When we discussed it with Andy, he thought 85% of the network was in very good shape and didn't need any attention.
- Patrick asked about the methodology of the audit, and if Barry is comfortable that they did a thorough audit this time.
- Barry replied that Andy went over the whole island as opposed to just one localized area with a statistical summary. They went out to 700 Acre Island as well.
- Page added that he and Andy rode around the island on the first day Andy was here. Page explained some of the history and some of the problem spots to him. They also spent a day on 700 Acre Island. The rest of the time Andy ran around by himself, so Page couldn't confirm

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whether or not he checked everything. However, from conversations, it sounds like he checked things pretty well, though there might have been a few things that slipped through the cracks.

b. Prioritization and authorization of work efforts based on the survey

- Barry suggested we move forward with this, to get the network tightened up. As long as they can hold to the estimate of the proposed work, he feels comfortable with it. It's a lot less than he had projected.
- Frank Start asked what the estimated amount is. Barry replied that it's \$30,896 to do about 120 pole transfers, a drop, about 200 wire cleanup areas, and three areas where there's damaged fiber: Drexel Lane, Otter Creek, and East Shore Drive, which has a broken pole.
- There is a \$500 setup fee on the estimate, which is an error. It won't be included.
- Page asked about travel time and ferry costs. Barry replied that it's all should be included, with labor and materials, in the estimate.
- A participant calling in from a phone number was unable to speak. Discussion about whether all participants on Zoom need to identify themselves. Is it in the policy? The caller left the meeting. [It was later learned that the caller was Pete Anderson, who had tried to speak, but had technical difficulties. There is nothing in the Remote Meeting Policy that states participants need to identify themselves.]
- Patrick asked about the payment terms. Barry replied that they will invoice us when they do the work. There's no upfront payment listed.
- Page stated that there's a drop wire cleanup listed. Andy had mentioned in conversations that he didn't see it worthwhile to do those drops. It's supposed to be just when work is happening in those spots, the drops get cleaned up. It's intriguing how this ended up on the estimate.
- Barry suggested waiting on moving forward until we get clarity on the estimate.
- Frank asked about the \$100,000 budgeted in the last fiscal year and if there's enough to cover this. Barry explained that the next fiscal year will have the same budgetary amount to do the rest of the stuff we need to do. The money we're spending now is coming out of the current fiscal year. This is going to be a phased-in project, with different sections. One is going to be the OSP, one is hardware at the PoP, and then we need to start looking at how we want to roll out newer equipment to replace the ONTs that are at end of life. Once all that's up-to-speed, that money should be able to be reduced from the budget. It will be a 3- to 4-year process.
- Bruce stated he sees no reason not to proceed with the work estimate that we got.
- Page stated his question about the drops isn't a showstopper, but it's certainly a question of clarity and prioritization. There are some small issues where everything is working fine, and it's good to clean it up, but that's not a priority issue.

**Motion by P. Nettles, seconded by B. Walker, to authorize Barry to proceed to get a clarification on the estimate, and to proceed with the work given the amount of the estimate. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Barry stated he will follow up to get clarification on that as well as clarification on recording the transfers to CMP, which isn't stated on the estimate.

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c. IMB Billing Process Review

- Barry gave some background. GWI/Mac Mountain has offered to take over the billing process for the Town. They want to do it on a monthly basis as opposed to an annual basis, and ideally, they would like to charge the full rate that they're getting paid, which is \$32.93/month per subscriber. Islesboro residents are paying slightly less than that now. [\$370/yr = \$30.83/mo.]
- Bruce stated that one of the concerns is that they would expect people to subscribe for a full year and not on a month-by-month basis, even though the billing may be month-by-month. Would that be confusing to people? The economics get quite different if it becomes a seasonal thing, since we have such a large seasonal population.
- Patrick stated he thinks we need a subscriber agreement that is very clear on that point.
- Bruce added that there's another part where that extra \$2 was noted. Could that be billed to the Town directly, or taken care of separately, so the users don't see it, or would we put it as a subscription increase?
- Barry replied that if we stayed with the current rate, they would bill the Town for the differential. Their preference is to do the full amount. There hasn't been a rate increase for a long time. It could go either way.
- John stated that we've had one increase. It went from \$360 to \$370 some years ago. It could be time for another increase, but is \$24 too big of an increase? If we do a \$10 increase, then we're asking them to bill \$14 as opposed to \$24 to the Town. If we're ready for a \$24 increase, then that's what we should be saying, but that's a big jump.
- Trevor stated it would be great if we could do options. He asked if the change is motivated because they've offered to take it over, or because we've had a problem getting people to pay?
- Tina replied that they offered. We probably have about 28 right now that are not paid, but in January it was closer to 100. It can be a problem tracking people down, and then we have to turn them off.
- Trevor stated that going to monthly payment options for people who don't pay the Town the annual fee within a certain window, with the fee increase, is a reasonable solution. Trevor likes paying once a year, and would like to preserve that option.
- Tina stated she's heard both preferences. Some like to have the option of just paying once a year, and others would like to pay monthly.
- Trevor suggested having options. An annual payment would include the discounted rate, and the monthly would have \$2/month increase. That's pretty standard for things like insurance. Could we do a hybrid model? The company could take over monthly billing for customers who opt into it.
- Bruce stated it might be complicated for the company to keep track of which subscribers are on which option. It would be great if they could offer an annual option if they're doing the billing.
- Barry stated he'd prefer to keep it simple and everyone pays the same rate, whether it's paid annually or monthly.
- Janet stated that it's unfortunate that Tevis and Adam aren't on the call. We're not making any progress on this. We need to discuss the options with the company.

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- Frank stated that it's in the current agreement that if the bill is not paid within 30 days, we could shut off the service. Could we just try shutting off service closer to the 30-day mark? The Town is still paying for that subscriber.
- Trevor stated he doesn't want to shut people off. The job of municipal broadband is to provide internet access to the island as a whole. Giving people flexible options of a monthly payment might solve the problem where people have a hard time saving for the annual payment. They might be less likely to be in arrears. Giving them payment options without further subsidization seems like a sound policy.
- Frank replied that it seems we are subsidizing them if the Town is paying it out of the budget.
- Barry stated he appreciates everyone's ideas. We should wait until we can talk with GWI.
- Patrick added that his guess is that this is a simplification because they're implementing a new software system, where the platform is used normally for monthly billing. If we have something more complicated, it may not be any sort of simplification for them. We need to get a candid answer to why they're offering to take over billing.
- Page added that in the beginning, we went with a single price with an annual payment to keep administrative costs down. If we start going to monthly payments, there is more administrative cost. He could see having a couple dollars extra per month to cover that extra cost.

d. Review and Changes in Maintenance Policy Language

- Barry stated that this is to make clarifications for the Town and also for anyone who's not authorized to work on the network. He asked for feedback on the sample page he'd sent out.
- Frank asked if these documents could be forwarded to non-committee members. Only the agenda went out in the meeting notification.
- Barry explained that this is just to look at the language as it is, and see if we want to make changes to it, so it communicates better to all about the rules for working on the network.
- Janet stated she would like to see that, too.
- Barry stated he will resend it to everyone. We can put it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Trevor suggested having the agenda notated with any attachments associated so they are sent out with the meeting notification.

5. Other Business

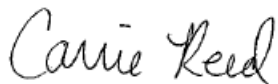
- Page asked Barry who the primary GWI contact is now that it's not Donna.
- Barry replied that it's Tevis. His email is [support.enterprise@macmountain.com](mailto:support.enterprise@macmountain.com).

6. Adjourn

**Motion by J. Rex-Waller, seconded by P. Nettles, to adjourn meeting at 3:39 PM. No discussion. Roll Call.**

**Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary