

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, September 28, 2016 6:00 PM,

**Location / address:** Hampshire Council of Governments, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA

Attending: Jim Drawe, David Dvore, Jeremy Dunn, Bob Labrie, MaryEllen Kennedy

Guests:

Called to order at: 6:08 pm

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting – Wed September 21, 2016 -approved – Bob & Charley abstained
2. Agenda for WiredWest Board of Director’s meeting Oct 1.

Report from Chair – Rowe meeting, cable operator in RI, who has responded to RFI (Fujitsu said they’d send one – Jim sent the data from Cummington, then worked with them to reconcile with their maps). SERTEX also does maintenance in our area (as well as engineering). Graybar said ADTRAN ONTs are superior to Calix. We asked for proposal by Thanksgiving, if they could do it for our part of the $22M + town money. Some concern that they are too busy to take this on.

Jeremy – several possibilities now: Charlemont – Axia, Rowe – Graybar/Corning/Fujitsu, Otis – Westfield G&E – they are ISP, NO, do maintenance. Towns are aware of this and wondering what is the best solution. Bob – 2 categories: Construction (MBI, Axia, G/C/F, Frontier, Westfield) and Operation (we are working on this part, some options leave no role for WW, e.g Axia). Jim noting details of these options.

David D approached Bill Ennen to collaborate on regionalization. Bill declined and is focussed on getting individual towns through readiness. We heard that at his FRCOG appearance, Bill was pushing wireless for some towns contrary to his earlier stance that towns should aim for eventually linking town networks into a regional one. Jeremy – Larry Gould said that Otis was not discouraged to work with Westfield.

We should help towns develop spreadsheet showing how it could be affordable if regional.

Towns will get construction estimate from MBI, but not till after design phase.

Bob would like us to send an update to subscribers (and perhaps former subscribers) – we can report on RFI.

Cornerstone is looking into CAF funds. Crocker checking on this (don’t think they are eligible if they don’t own the network).

We need to acknowledge Axia proposal – they want 20-30,000 potential subscriber area and a 40% signup on their site. Most towns won’t want to do another signup. Towns need to balance a build with no taxes vs. possible monopoly (Axia unregulated, since they’re Internet only). Comcast is only regulated for cable, not phone or Internet.

Tolland is talking to mid-Hudson cable.

Bob & Jim will create a slide for presentation to the BoD Saturday comparing the construction and operations options. And Jim will list those who have replied to the RFI.

We’ll ask for feedback on where towns are in MBI Readiness process – give Jim a list of towns.

\*Bring a list of towns for Jim

1. RFI estimates update
2. MBI Update (David D – demands on MBI) – Rowe meeting with them next week to plan the pole surveys. No info from MBI re: regionalization, construction contract.

David working on list of negotiating points, wants to develop with the rest of EC. A major point is agreement that towns can operate any way they want. David sent the list to Bob for wordsmithing.

1. Discuss Plan A2 – RFI responses should be received Friday . Need to look at them, score them and decide what can fit in the plan. Initial read to identify the areas covered, then do a score sheet to pick the best options. Jim will send pointer to docs. Ken McInerny of New Ashford expressed interest in helping with RFI scoring. We’ll invite the Board again to see if anyone wants to help. We’ll start on initial look next Wednesday.
2. Committee Updates: Bob has bank paperwork for Jeremy to sign. He’s clarifying current expenses before invoicing towns. Bob wants to confirm what’s left of MBI grant. I will send a summary of remaining accounts by town to Bob.
3. Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls – interest article Jim did – David will post. Clark recommended that Becket do 20-year bond – they meet finance criteria – can lock in interest rates. Jim will respond to the letter from Clark.
4. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting
5. Set next EC meeting – Wed Oct. 5 6pm Old Courthouse

Adjourned: 8:58 pm