

WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date / time: Friday, January 20, 2017 6:00 PM

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

Attendees: Jim Drawe, Charley Rose, Bob Labrie, Jeremy Dunn

Guests: Gayle Huntress,

Meeting called to order at: 6:02pm

1. Approve minutes of previous meetings – January 11 Jim Proposed, Charley 2nd – passed
2. MaryEllen moved, Jeremy 2nd to recess for non-public discussion – all agreed.

Resumed public session at: 6:48pm

1. Review January 14 BoD meeting:
2. MBI update
3. Discuss Plan A2

Jim – we’ll need an MOU with the towns, he suggests within 2 months. Some concerns that towns will need more time to decide.

1. January 28 Regional Operation Solution Workshop organizing
* What material should go on the thumb drives? Spreadsheet, legal opinions on MLP operation, …
1. Committee Updates
2. Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls
3. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting

Charley – secrecy. He feels that non-public sessions cause suspicion and may cause some towns to drop out. Jim – we’ll release the spreadsheet with business model after Jan 28 and will not need that level of secrecy.

Jim – change to the law 44B allowed towns, not MLPs authority to borrow money to build a telecommunications system. But Jim thinks Ch 164 does not say that towns (instead of MLPs) can own telecommunications systems.

 4 town meeting, included MBI – Tim N – 4 town RFP is aimed at Frontier or other service providers (not a construction RFP). Question asked – will MBI allow the form of RFP under MLP law, not 30B? Ed Donnelly essentially didn’t answer. Can town use MLP law instead of doing home rule petition to pay the provider? Question about money for the project – Peter Larkin answered that towns will not get the design money if using a private provider (as previously stated by MBI). Peter Larkin praised the 4-town idea.

Jim – insurance – PURMA doesn’t want small towns. MBI working with MIIA & is supposed to send a questionnaire to the towns, haven’t seen it yet.

1. Set next EC meeting – Jan 25 6:00 pm

Adjourn: 9:40pm