

WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Date / time: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:00 PM

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

Attending: Jim Drawe, Bob Labrie, MaryEllen Kennedy, Jeremy Dunn, Charley Rose

Guests: Steve Nelson, Gayle Huntress, Aaron Bean, Bob Handsaker, Tim Newman, Al Woodhull, Craig Martin

Called to order: 6:04 pm

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting – February 1- passed over – not distributed.

MEK moved, Bob Labrie 2nd to recess for non-public discussion

Reconvened at 8:14 pm

1. Regional Broadband Solution update

Appointed vs elected MLP Boards – Jim quoted the law, you need a legal board to be exempt from 30B.

Meeting wi/ Michael

Meeting with the towns – Goshen, Chesterfield scheduled. Jim Drawe – good to have 2 people – 1 to talk project, 1 for financials. Tim Newman – New Marlborough may be willing to meet –4 town RFP due Feb 17, thinks it should be after the RFP responses -TN to set up. Worthington – within the next month Thursday AM – schedule with Charley.

1. MBI update

Chicken/egg problem – towns won’t sign up if MBI does not approve, MBI will not approve if towns don’t make wishes known. Jim – we need a sample contract in place with WGE before we contact MBI. Not sure if new Western Mass governor’s rep would help. Tim thinks we should try him (Knapik – was Westfield mayor) for help setting up meeting with Carolyn Kirk. Bob Labrie – waiting to hear if Steve Kulik can set up that meeting. Charley Rose – we need to show that the big towns are willing to support regionalization even if it costs them somewhat more. Steve Nelson thinks the number of town resolutions is important. Tim Newman – we need to know how MBI will react – C. Kirk meeting should be first. Bob – we could call her as Marilyn Wilson did. Steve – we wanted to show that towns support WW and we are speaking to what the towns want. Bob H – individual people from the towns – SB, liaisons – should contact MBI with preference for WG&E to do Design/Engineering – should go on in parallel with communication with CK, etc.

Gayle H – should get a meeting with C. Kirk asap, bring resolutions from many towns about regional operations + quotes from WG&E for D/E. Show that we can get started immediately and give MBI a win. We need to have clear asks and show benefits for MBI.

WW policy on use of surcharge – resolve inconsistency on the website. Jim – town responsibility – set up books (1 time), account reconciles books monthly (part of their job), bonding insurance for MLP manager. Doesn’t see a need for additional cost to the town. Craig Martin - we want the highest possible take rate so keep fees as low as possible – any excess revenue going back to the towns who can spend as they wish. Bob Handsaker – thinks allowing towns to use the fee for any network expenses is okay. Charley Rose– the major expense towns might want to add is debt service which we say is allowed. Jim Drawe – towns need to act in best interest of the network, which is maximum subscriptions. Should ask for some money at ATM to cover incidental costs.

\*\*\*This should be on agenda for next BoD to see if we change plan A2 to limit surcharges. Need proposed wording.

Craig Martin– policy on charges for installation – towns could cover in build, higher take rate or charge. Jim – good to have a penalty for not signing up first – we want highest possible take rate at startup. Tim Newman – should not just have a vote by BoD – contact town officials and educate first. Need to determine to what extent a town can make own decisions vs following group policies. Jim Drawe – requested that Bob Handsaker write the argument for town choices, Craig Martin to write on co-op policies and send to EC & OC by next Tuesday for discussion at Wednesday Feb 15 EC meeting.

FCC advisory panel – Charley & Jim interested in applying.

WGBH contact – Tim talked to Christina Quinn, she proposed doing an interview.

NYTimes – Tim spoke to Cecilia Kang, will be sending her some information.

1. Committee Updates

Financial – MBI Grant extension – they have been extended to end of 2017 fiscal year – MBI wants a list of what type of service & total amount we expect to spend by then.

1. Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls
2. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting

Jim Drawe met with Jim Lavalle of HGE, they could be OPM to oversee the project.

1. Set next EC meeting Wed 2/15 6:30 pm – Jim to confirm.

Adjourn: 10:00 pm