



MINUTES

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

March 15, 2014, 9:30 AM

Goshen Town Hall, 42 Main Street (Route 9), Goshen, MA

Welcome and Introductions - Chair Monica Webb called the meeting to order at 9:37 and welcomed our delegates, alternates and guests. She also thanked our hosts, the town of Goshen and Bob Labrie. She overviewed the recent activities of the EC surrounding financing meetings and the FCC filing. Monica also announced the sad news that Reva Reck is facing a serious health challenge. A card was passed around for anyone wishing to sign.

Approval of minutes Bob Armstrong motioned we approve; Kevin Cahill seconded. No discussion. All in favor with following abstentions: Daniel Lieberman, Shelburne; Patricia Lemon, Warwick.

Nomination of Rebecca Torres to Executive Committee Monica gave a brief overview of Rebecca's qualifications and contributions to WW. Becky spoke about her feelings about WiredWest and indicated she would be pleased to serve. Monica nominated; Mike Crochiere seconded Jim Drawe moved to close nominations; Brian Hawthorne seconded. All in favor

Election of Rebecca Torres to Executive Committee – Rebecca Torres unanimously elected to the Executive Committee of WiredWest by the WiredWest Board of Directors.

Report from the Executive Director - David Epstein seconded Becky's comments that WiredWest is an extraordinary organization. David reviewed the progress and content of the regional financial meetings taking place in various towns. David discussed the financing strategy at this time and let the BoD know that a meeting is scheduled with MBI and various high level bonding professionals. He also updated the board on FCC / CAF funding, our letter of interest, and the process by which WiredWest might ultimately become the recipient of some of these funds. Monica will post a link to the FCC letter. Questions were asked and discussion ensued.

Legislative Update – Monica reported on the status of the bond bill, which is still within the senate bonding committee. Estimates are that it will be "passed in the early summer". A new bill has been introduced that changes the way the state leverages the funding, potentially giving more flexibility to how the funding can be used. The FCC expression of interest letter will be going to legislators as an update on our activities.

Report on Financing Meetings with Towns and other parties - David gave an update on the financing meeting progress to date. He overviewed the gist of the presentations that were made. Discussion ensued with delegates asking multiple questions around organizational

communication and outreach as well as questions about construction costs in individual towns.

Town apportionment discussion - Monica presented the rationale and current thinking among the EC for the apportionment of the amount the towns would each be asked to guarantee. Jim presented some numbers for various scenarios. At last BoD meeting, the initial thinking was apportioning based on housing units; current thinking is aerial strand footage plus drops. Discussion ensued; questions asked and feedback provided to the EC by the board about what individual board members felt might be fair and how it could be defended.

Committee Reports

- Sales (ISP) – Glenn Cardinal reported that our first customer is not yet lit, although should be shortly. It has been a learning experience. Glenn reported that due to the significant effort required to get the last mile network funded and built, we will not be seeking additional ISP customers at this time.
- Marketing – Monica Webb reported that we are currently focused on outreach and finance modeling to key constituents: selectboards, town fincoms, citizens and legislators utilizing networking as well as traditional and electronic media.
- Governance / Legal – Steve Nelson briefly re-addressed town apportionment and justification letter for the \$1000 annual fee. Steve will be creating a monthly report which will be distributed shortly after this meeting.
- Finance – Jim Drawe distributed a YTD operating statement. He pointed out the ISP line item and indicated that our costs are just over half of what was originally budgeted. Jim reported that Rep. Kulik set up a meeting with state treasurer's office for WiredWest which went well and there are several information deliverables that we should be receiving soon.
- Technology – Kevin Cahill – nothing new at this time.
- Town Liaison – Becky Torres reported that she will be picking up the ball from Reva following up with cable towns. All delegates should give any email address changes to Becky. She will be using WiredWestTownLiaison@gmail.com as her email address for communications relating to WiredWest. Next Financial Info meeting will be Wednesday in Charlemont.

Other Director Input – Regarding Cable Towns, Glenn requested that town delegates try to obtain the cable companys' estimate for build out to unserved residents. MTC is requesting DSL location verification. MBI has also indicated they would be having meetings with towns. Monica encouraged WW reps to be included in those meetings in their towns

Confirm and Schedule next BoD meetings

April 16th (Wednesday evening) at 7:00 pm in Northampton.

May 17th – Location to be determined.

Adjourn – Jim Drawe moved to adjourn. Kevin Cahill seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:46.