

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 6:00 PM,

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

Attendees: Jim Drawe, Bob Labrie, Charley Rose, MaryEllen Kennedy

Guests: Steve Nelson, Tim Newman, Jeremy Dunn

Called to order: 6:15PM

1. **Approve minutes of previous EC meeting – July 1:** All approved, Bob Labrie abstained.
2. Steve Nelson stated that the EC does not have the sufficient number to operate now – need 6 members
3. **MBI Update**: Bob Labrie – first meeting with John Furey & Cornell Robinson last Saturday, MBI folks are meeting with Chesterfield SB next week, Chesterfield asked Bob to attend. There is a small regional group attempting to form in his area.

Steve – his language for other option – MLP coop.

Attachment agreements – each town will need to do this. The towns will be responsible for all pole attachment costs.

17 towns had passed the authorization for a regional MLP coop, so there needs to be a role for WiredWest. Charley – MBI maintains they are doing a regional build, but our wording included MLP coop.

Frontier presentation to New Marlborough – Phil Holahan, Peter Larkin & one MBI CM attended. Their pitch – they would fund network construction, then bill the town a monthly payment $20 per household (whether or not they take service) for 15 years. MBI would fund part of the construction. Tim is concerned about future costs, since Frontier would be a monopoly.

GPON vs Active Ethernet – Jeremy – Todd stated that splices in the field are expensive, so the real choice is where to do the splits in the field – AE costs about 1/3 more to do home runs for the the whole network – Jim disputes this, based on our typical towns. A network with the least splits possible is the most future proof. MBI/Cartesian design assumed GPON with splits in the field, so that is what the “not to exceed” number was based on. Todd recommended a single hut for Becket. Jim thinks home runs should be preferred unless it is much more expensive.

Our recommendation – request home runs until/unless it’s proved too expensive.

Jeremy working on the financial spreadsheet, comparing with the “shiny model” – DLS worksheet does not include backhaul, which is 15-20% of the operating cost. (Axia - $1500/month/Gb). Jim – with a ring and towns sharing the dark fiber backhaul, it should be cheaper for each town. Jim – Azia charges $50/mi/month for dark fiber – if done as an IRU it can be a capital cost paid for at once.

Information to be published for the towns – based on the submission form.

1. **Discuss Plan A2**: The EC will publish an RFI for services, EC folks have been assigned to identify vendors. This will be an EC effort with volunteers. Jeremy – ask the Becket chair of finance committee & Washington town accountant – Dan Parnell. Ken McInerny of New Ashford also volunteered to help.

Multiple vs single vendor: Our pros for multi – each can be best of breed, easier to take it inhouse. Some concern that multi vendors could be complicated, interfacing customer service, billing, accounting, etc. We will be entertaining responses from both type of vendors and deciding which approach to take during the process.

1. **Committee Updates**:

Finance committee has not met. We still need to pay Greg Richardson of CrowdFiber, now have the money from MBI.

Outreach – PBS Newshour appearance last week with Tim & Bob – presented the rural problem. Tim to follow up with NY Times reporter.

1. **RFI estimates update**:

Who will research the service providers:

* Billing – Steve Nelson
* ISP - Charley
* Network Operations – MaryEllen (Tim/Jim will follow up with HG&E) – “Inside Plant”
* VoIP – Tim (will contact Jean for help)
* Line Maintenance – Becky (there are 3-4 in state) – “Outside Plant”
* Customer Service –
* Accounting – (should be local)
* Sales/Marketing –
* Insurance – we qualify for MAIA (probably not line maintenance) as well as PURMA

1. **Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls**:

Outreach will be sending out letter to non-attending towns (5 or fewer meetings in the last 18 months).

Note to towns who have not been attending was discussed. The letter will go to 10 towns who have not attended more than 5 meetings in the last 18 months.

We should publicize that we will be discussing the MBI submission process at next Board meeting, and ask for RSVP. We can put up the questions & get input from audience and discuss.

1. **Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting**:
2. **Set next EC meeting**: Wed, July 20 6pm HCOG, following July 29 – 6pm HCOG

I will send proposed agenda to EC – we can discuss online – finish by this weekend, so it can go in email to towns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm