

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting MInutes**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, August 10, 2016 6:00 PM,

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

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

Guests: Jeremy Dunn, David Dvore, Trevor

Called to order at 6:05pm

1. Approve minutes of previous EC meeting – July 29 – no quorum

We’ve received letters of withdrawal from Princeton, Egremont, Alford.

Make sure we’ve asked all cable towns to withdraw.

Jeremy spoke to Tamarin in Middlefield who has a big business, she’s planning to run for SB, dubious about wireless. We won’t ask them to withdraw.

1. MBI Update

Jeremy – Todd corrected costs – access to MBI123 is $1200/Gb/month, but $6500/month/10G,

Dark fiber now $60/month/mile, MBI currently requires 2 fibers, but we would supply equipment which is bidirectional. Axia contract will be up before network is complete, so prices may change.

Bernardston dropping Crocker for town government in favor or Verizon.

My summary of JF letter: Final version of recommendation letter almost ready. MBI has selected pole collection firm, plan to start pole surveys in first group of towns (Ashfield, Egremont, New Salem Shutesbury and Wendell) late August or early September.

Rick Manley said that if you got services via a municipal coop, would not need to revote warrant which mentioned regional cooperative. It doesn’t seem that DLS will look at sustainability, just checking affordability of construction. The sustainability spreadsheet mostly designed to force towns to think of the cost of operations.

MBI talking to Fujitsu to be network operator. MBI will be specifying a few equipment manufacturers, and the towns will have to pick. Jim – we should have a recommendation for the towns, since we should have the same equipment everywhere.

Mt. Washington came in with a lower cost than the MBI estimate, MBI will still supply the original amount. It seems likely that the cost will be lower.

Equipment: Calix, Nokia, Zhone & Adtran make OLTs, ONTs from Calix & Adtran. Indoor ONTs are now cheaper than outdoor. Trevor felt that MBI is more receptive to home runs. Splitters in the field make more sense in dense neighborhoods. Few truck rolls if you have splitters in the field. Jim - for home runs in rural areas, fiber size will become smaller along the way as fibers are connected to home.

MBI may be willing to sell the ‘spur’ to the town – which would allow overlashing. Also looking at towns closing the spurs. DD – the towns would have to pay to extend the network, but this won’t be expensive since we’d be going to edges, just need to reserve 1 or 2 strands for external connections.

New Marlborough seems likely to go with Frontier, still in negotiations.

1. Discuss Plan A2 – Joe Boudreau sent in some questions when we announced A2 – Charley will send to Jim, he’ll answer and send to the EC for review and we’ll post. Charley thinks they will schedule vote in October, school costs have risen and taxes went up recently, but he thinks it will pass.
2. Committee Updates

Finance – Steve removed from signatory, Bob added. Bob should contact Melissa who has all the records. We owe the Board a finance statement. We need to contact subscribers in towns which have withdrawn explaining how to get a refund. We are tracking refunds. Charley needs an update for MailChimp. Vendor bills are current, Jim submitted $18,000 for reimbursement to MBI. Bob to ask Melissa re sending requests to towns for voluntary $1,000 contribution. Jeremy suggests we indicate what we’re planning to do with the money.

1. RFI estimates update – Bob has gotten some questions from potential vendors; we don’t expect responses this quickly.

Jeremy sent Jim names of some customer service firms, would like someone to contact them. Steve sent a list of billing companies. MEK to contact Fujitsu, we should develop a relationship with them. EX2 (squared) – contacted Rowe & Bob L also spoke to them and gave them a pointer to the RFI. Should we also contact Ting? We will notify SB, FINcom, BB committees – Bob to write a preface. We could outsource email (MS Office365, Amazon workmail…). Jim statedm to qualify for erate, you must be able to filter addresses for schools.

Bob L is meeting with Corning Optical Communications, who wants to partner with Goshen for FTTH.

Charley – wouldn’t the ISP do customer service? Jeremy – what’s the function of an ISP besides customer service?

Jim Network Operations – monitoring traffic, etc – could be anywhere but we want a local company for outside line maintenance, Jim will contact. Tech support – maintaining devices (including inside plant).

Jim thinks MBI will configure all the equipment for the town – so that they can confirm operation. We should ask our MBI contacts how far they will go in confirming network operation e.g confirming just physical connectivity or Internet.

Our RFI does ask vendors to describe what service(s) they offer and how they would interact with other vendors.

Westfield G&E has just been rolling out FTTH - $70/month for 1Gb symmetrical.

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

David Dvore – David Kulp promoting subgroups, should we be concerned? Possibly due to MBI distaste for WW, smaller groups can be affected more easily.

1. Set next EC meeting – Wed, Aug 31 6pm HCOG

\* send list of towns contacted for withdrawal to the EC & attendees. Jim will check mail next Thursday & inform us if some towns haven’t responded – we will call them.

 Adjourned: 8:30pm