

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / time:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 6:00 PM,

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

Attendees: Jim Drawe, Bob Labrie, Charley Rose, MaryEllen Kennedy (no quorum)

Guests: David Dvore, Jeremy Dunn

Meeting called to order at: 6:05pm

1. **Approve minutes of previous EC meeting** – August 10 – done

Shelburne and Northfield have withdrawn from WiredWest, they are cable towns.

Huntington announced that Chris Saner will be the delegate, John McVeigh resigned.

1. **Plan for September 10 Board of Directors meeting**

Town Hall in Goshen not available, Bob working on alternatives. We can go to Cummington if necessary. Bob to do the update from last BoD meeting by this weekend.

**Election of officers:** Proposed slate: Charley for Vice-Chair (Bob as fallback), Jeremy Dunn - Vice-Treasurer, David Dvore – Town Liaison.

**Bylaw change:** Jim will make change to bylaws to read at next meeting – minimum of 3 members for Executive Committee.

1. **MBI Update**

David found choosing Option F was delaying approval of their submission. Bob asked Selectboard to see if Kopelman & Page will print an opinion. Concern about choosing independent network that it may lock town in. Jim Drawe – inform your SB that you intend to operate as a co-op. David trying to get future co-op option into the submission form. Bob read out Steve Nelson’s email regarding keeping to the structure that towns voted for.

Payment schedule – Becket Selectboard willing to push back. MBI needs to propose budget in advance and then state supplies the funds. It is required to pay for makeready work up front. A better schedule would be 30%, 20-25%, 20-25%, the rest at completion.

Bond counsel approval should not be needed, due to recent legislation allowing 1 year notes for 10 years, then a 10 year State House note (can prepay, low interest rates, don’t need bond counsel, just financial advisor). [Jim to write summary for website]

Jeremy – MBI says they will deliver an operational service. Todd Corcoran, Becket’s MBI construction manager, told him that towns should choose NO/ISP during design stage.

Jeremy – leasing dark fiber connecting to Internet – the [Tier 1] provider would be the ISP. Contiguous towns can connect directly to each other, need dark fiber where non-contiguous. Towns which want regional build will need a Clerk of the Works to monitor the design and construction (Todd Corcoran – each town should have tech rep). Shutesbury person who managed 5 College Fiber network (Graeme’s boss) would be good for this job. Should we do an RFP? Jim did put something in the grant for engineering services (~$5k), expects it would be not more than $50k – but this could last for a while, since not all towns will start together. If Becket purchases backhaul IRU (or Blandford, closer to Springfield), should it offer to share with contiguous towns? Can save a lot of money by avoiding 123 network. Jim – if we have a ring, only need 2 Internet connections (Springfield, Albany). Using WDM, only need 1 strand of fiber.

Jeremy Dunn – Todd quoted much higher figure for underground fiber. He contacted Larry Gould

(building inspector for Otis) about talking with utilities for help. Internet search quoted more like $50k per mile. Otis might be interested in working regionally.

1. **Discuss Plan A2 -** Jim will do update on RFI responses at BoD meeting. Home page should direct to RFI – it’s in the Vendors section – David Dvore to put a link on home page. Jim has had some emails asking for more info. We’ll need to build knowledge base for customer service. Bob L & David Dvore had no response from EX2. Graybar said they’re available in daytime on Sep 7 – they want to build network w/o MBI involvement. Need to think about website development for Plan A2 – will need to take orders, or at least to show offerings & a number to call. Should interface with provisioning and billing systems. System would need to be in place before construction connects people (maybe 6 months before completion).
2. **Committee Updates –** Bob L. – TD Bank rejected the changes we tried to make (adding Bob and removing Steve) – the person Bob saw re-requested the changes and they should work now.
3. **RFI estimates update**
4. **Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls**

Joel Tyner Rhinebeck NY had asked for WW rep to speak at a forum. Jim Drawe can attend. He also wants someone to call in to his radio show – maybe Tim? Also looking for someone to attend the BerkshireOne award ceremony.

1. **Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting**
2. **Set next EC meeting –** Wednesday Sep 7 6pm

**Adjourned at:** 8:15 pm