

**Minutes**

WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting

Hampshire Council of Governments

99 Main Street, Northampton MA 01060

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions** Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Attendees:** Jim Drawe, Charley Rose, Bob Labrie, David Dvore, Craig Martin

**Visitors**: Gayle Huntress, Aaron E-J

**Approval of Minutes:**  December 7, 2017 – motion made and seconded to approve as prepared. Approved unanimously.

**Other Business:** We opened our meeting with a visitor. Aaron E-J represents a group of people in the Pioneer Valley area (Easthampton, Northampton, Hadley, etc.), who are looking to establish a net-neutral, cooperatively run internet provider.  He had reached out to the WiredWest Executive Committee and asked to meet with us to discuss further. Aaron explained that his group was in the process of gathering information on what types of networks are currently in place and what the plans were going forward.

Jim provided him with the history of WiredWest and explained our mission and what we’ve gone through to get to where we currently are. We emphasized that there was no quick way to get to where Aaron wanted to be. Funding would need to be a priority since the project could cost tens of millions of dollars depending on scope. Availability of funding (of lack of it) would also drive whether or not they should look into forming an MLP.

**Discuss Agenda for Jan. 10 Board Meeting**

* Becket has developed a compromise to the revenue sharing policy that will be presented.
* Jim and Charley are meeting with Westfield Gas & Electric on Monday, 1/8. Hoping to have a final contract to approve at the Board meeting.
* Edge Cases – we will be discussing the various proposals that have been made with a goal of creating one final proposal.

**Regional Broadband Solution – MOU**

* 15 towns out of 21 towns have signed the MOU (7,916 households).
* Jim met with the New Marlborough Broadband Committee chair. He is willing to show his support for WiredWest to his Select board.
* Becket Broadband Committee has developed a compromise to the revenue sharing policy that Jeremy and Craig will review prior to the Board meeting.

**Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E)**

* Version 11 – Jim proposed changes to the network revenue section (2.8) of the draft contract because of what OTT did with over the top offerings when they contracted with Leverett. Those changes will be presented to WG&E at Monday’s meeting with them.
* 4.9.4 – payments to WiredWest – Jim made additional updates to the section
* Gayle brought up the need for a net neutrality and privacy policy. Jim agreed and reassured us that the language was going to be included in the contract after discussion with WG&E on Monday.

**Committee Updates**

* MIAA Insurance – David will be unavailable for the next several months. Gayle has volunteered to pick up where David left off.
* Escrow Account – Bob has been updating the master template with deposit and check information. In a few weeks, he will look for help from the group in matching up around 10% of the deposits with subscribers using the sign-up cards. Once a reconciliation is completed, deposits will be refunded to residents whose towns are no longer part of WiredWest.

**Next Meetings**

Board of Directors – 1/10 – Cummington

Executive Committee – 1/17 - Northampton

**Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting**

**Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**

**Submitted by Bob Labrie**