

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Cummington Community House

33 Main Street, Cummington MA 01026

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7:00 pm

**Welcome and Introductions** 7:02 pm

**Approval of Minutes**

March 17, 2018

Moved: Doug McNally Seconded: Kent Lew

Passed unanimously, with David Dvore, Joe Kearns, and Steve Nelson abstaining.

**Report from the Chair**

The contract between WG+E and WiredWest is at their lawyer’s being reviewed. It has also been sent our counsel. She will be working on the contract between WW and member towns. Jim visited New Ashford, who had voted to leave WW. He presented the spreadsheets being handed out to delegates, showing it does not materially impact other towns’ profit sharing. We hope they will reconsider. The contract with the towns will include the revenue sharing formula, so won’t be changed during the initial contract period.

Jim went to Hawlmont last week for a meeting with WiValley, Fred Goldstein, Middlefield, Hawley, Savoy, Florida and Monroe. Most these towns are onboard with this wireless solution, since they can’t afford fiber. They have confirmed no ability to overlash on MB123. Middlefield is still considering options. Charlemont requested that they don’t sign up any subscribers there since there is a tower proposed in Charlemont, WiValley agreed. This means we will have to find a way to connect Charlemont with Plainfield without Hawley. Comcast is still offering to connect Worthington, Charlemont, and Middlefield.

**Regional Broadband Solution**

Revenue sharing: agreed on formula sent to Deidre to include in the contract.

Insurance update: David Dvore is still waiting for an update from MIIA. PURMA seems more interested now, it looks like the coop can pay the annual dues. They will insure the whole plant (fiber + equipment), minimum is $1M coverage. This should be less expensive for the towns; we could roll up all the cost of our plants, and then prorate insurance costs to the towns. Payments can be handled by WW. Diane Belanger will meet with the Executive Committee on April 11 to discuss PURMA’s offering.

Budgeting: Jim produced a rollout budget, received no feedback from towns as yet. This was based on WG+E’s schedules for the towns. Jim spoke to WG+E, encouraging them to refine their project plans, maintain them and publish minutes after every meeting.

Easement document: was sent to towns. Produced by KP Law.

WG+E contract / terms – Vote to approve

Still being reviewed, so no vote today.

IRU

Document produced by Deidre has been sent to delegates.

**Town updates**

*Worthington*: voting at Annual Town Meeting May 5 whether to build a town network or choose a provider.

*Windsor:* waiting for pole agreements.

*Heath:* Bob Bourke new town appointee attended. They working on pole survey. One area with private ways, some seasonal, some permanent may need hybrid solution.

*Plainfield:* 8 poles installed today, clearing land for hut Saturday, full planning package received. Info session, showing folks where they are on the map. Kimberly talked to DTC person, about USF. They are currently over by $500k w/o make ready. Gathering data for drop policy, will share the calculations.

Wendell – RH not attending BB meetings, thinks Wendell will be submitting pole applications. He thinks they

*Shutesbury:* make ready is proceeding. Preparing for ATM, pushing for final design. Considering separating the build of distribution network & the drops. They will be issuing an RFP for construction and one for an operator.

*Chesterfield:* pole survey complete, working with WG+E. Their MLP manager attending the MLP mgr meeting with Plainfield – very helpful. Still working on choice for hub – existing building, new hut or abandoned VZN building.

*New Marlborough:* still undecided, drafting a new RFP for private providers, expect Crocker, Matrix, Fiber Connect will respond. SB & BB meeting with Charter tomorrow. BB committee to present town options after RFP complete, then recommend to SB. Probably presented to town mid to late summer.

*Goshen:* signed with WG+E for CAF II.

*Cummington:* waiting for VZN pole agreement, Eversource complete. Design in progress. Working on budgeting (If borrowing in FY19, first interest payment in FY20).

*Washington:* submitted pole agreement to VZN, had to change name on contract (Eversource, now NStar).

Expecting FSA01 design April 13. Pole applications start next week.

[Jim – take minutes of the WG+E meetings – send copies to Joe, Rich + Aaron]

*Middlefield:* nothing else

*New Salem:* cost of protected PON, expecting poles

*Rowe:* David spent a lot of time getting the route map updated. They did first submissions to VZN and NGrid. First make ready quotes returned in mid-March by VZN ( 3 of 8). Osmose assessments of G/Y/R poles does not match what the utilities report. Pole replacements are the major make-ready costs. VZN and NGRID each charge for their make-ready work on poles replacements, but NGrid is larger according to Gayle in Shutesbury. NGrid has not responded yet in Rowe, while the time frame 45 days for VZN is running out. EOHED and WG+E pushing for VZN and NGrid to coordinate on poles. The pole survey costs not covered by the application fees, they send a ‘true-up’ charge. 918 poles submitted, 53 need replacing. WG+E will look at the poles which are classed as needing replacement, then negotiate with utility. Have design for FSA01, waiting for the second. Progress is slow. WG&E seems overextended.

Kent – WG+E contract included fighting for up to 10% of poles, if town has more replacements, it might be good to triage: identify poles which aren’t worth contesting.

**Reports from Committees** 10 minutes

Finance

Vote to approve FY 19 budget

Moved Doug McNally , Seconded Kimberly Longey

**approved unanimously**

Rowe, Goshen, Windsor, Middlefield, Heath, New Salem, Wendell, Cummington have paid 2018 dues.

Governance – no update

**Other Director Input** 10 minutes

**Confirm and Schedule next BoD meetings** 5 minutes

May 2

June 6

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

**Adjourn** 8:57 pm

(next meeting – plan for how to handle excessive costs – advocacy with EOHED. We should report to WG+E what is network essential, so they can back us up with EOHED. Kent ‘network essential’ & ‘public way’ should be used.) Doug will write up some language and scenarios for discussion.