

**MInutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Cummington Community House

33 Main Street, Cummington MA 01026

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7:00 pm

Called to order at: 7:10 pm (1 short of quorum) Quorum reached at 7:21 pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Approval of Minutes**

February 13, 2019

Moved: Bob Labrie

Seconded: Robert Heller

Result: Approved unanimously, David Dvore abstaining.

**Report from the Chair**

Doug mentions that we need have commitments from towns so that we can conduct business. We discussed which towns are not participating and discussed removal.

Motion to instruct Executive Director to communicate with towns not expected to go with WiredWest to respond whether they’d like to remain as non-voting members or to resign from WW.

Updated Town Agreement Vote

Doug stressed that we just have an up or down vote, we are not prepared to make extensive modifications. Changes have been received from KP Law and reviewed by Diedre. Jim Drawe reviewed the changes with the group.

Moved: Bob Labrie – accept Service Agreement as amended

Seconded: Robert Heller

Result: Approved unanimously

Update on WG+E Contract amendments

Jim Drawe – WG+E has a new team, somewhat different philosophy. Their proposed changes mostly are to do less and charge more. E.g. they do not want to ‘white label’ the product. DD spoke to Lisa (WG+E marketing), who is resistant to doing a separate web site – she had problems with Otis. Steve Nelson suggested we do our own web site, just sending customers to Whip City Fiber site for signup. We want it to be clear that customers are of WiredWest, not WCF. Jim is meeting with WG+E on this tomorrow (3/14). Jim will also discuss the seasonal customers, hard to push back on since it was not mentioned in the earlier contract. He will also debate the changes in the phone charges. Another concern was that the KPIs were all made longer.

MLP accounting update

Jim Drawe received sample chart of accounts (for town & WW) from Jim Goulet. He will be distributing to delegates once he has cleaned them. Bob Labrie spoke with Muni accounting firm Justin Cole (Bay State Muni Accounting services). Derek Geser – accountant will be at HCG on Wednesdays & Tuesdays. Bob explained our work and needs. They will process invoices, etc – can be done remotely with scanned documents.

**Committee Updates**

**Finance**

Refunds – Jim Drawe created a database of all subscriber information we have, so we’re processing more easily. Steve Nelson asked about how we will move the escrow fund into the customer’s WiredWest account. Jim says we’ll have to ask whether they made a deposit.

**Town updates**

Chesterfield – Jim D meeting with MLP committee on March 20. BL– SB wants to know “what WiredWest will give them.”

Heath – Art Schwenger reports Kent’s explanation of WW value was very convincing.

Becket – J Parda expects to finish negotiations soon. Expects make ready bills soon. Will be borrowing from stabilization fund. They need to know when make ready will finish before making further commitments. Estimates for the areas with buried utilities much higher than expected.

Heath – waiting for engineering costs from W+E – they are negotiating with utilities.

Washington – make ready ongoing by Verizon, hut site preparation soon. Planning presentation to town next month – update on the project to generate enthusiasm.

Wendell – hut coming next month.

Rowe – under construction started 2/4 – Sertex is contractor, WG+E project manager. Slow in Feb due to weather, but now things are going faster. Hut was delivered and installed with electrical connections. 4-month lead time on electronics (active). Backhaul options: either ‘open’ or ‘closed’ – one way allows MBI to connect other customers, Rowe chose the one which will let them they retain control over the hut. $4200 install + line to the MBI PoP, cost is $1200/month for 1Gb guaranteed. March 30 – sign up event. Pre-signup survey – 72%. Axia was not notified of the need for make ready, this should not continue to be a problem. Axia has agreed to let contractors do their make ready. Rowe’s drop policy – free install to all who sign up in advance (by May15). Expects first customers by end of May. Towns need to choose when to turn up backhaul – after 1 FSA lit, or whole town.

Goshen – has timeline on website, will choose ISP/NO Dec 2019.

**Other Director Input**

Steve Nelson – would like to know if people will need to sign a contract. Consensus was that we don’t need a contract and it might generate resistance by sounding like a cable company. Jeremy Dunn – if we’re paying for drops, that could justify requiring a contract.

Jeremy – Ashfield’s plan is to allow up to $3,000 for connections. Doug – Ashfield has been accumulating funds to subsidize drops and minimize tax impact of construction costs.

**Confirm and Schedule next BoD meetings**

April 10

May 15

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

**Adjourn 9:10 pm**

Next meeting – vote on customer signup document/contract?