

WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting MInutes

Date / time: Wednesday, 28 August 2019 7:00 PM

Location / address: Community House, 33 Main Street, Cummington, MA

Attending: Doug McNally, Kent Lew, Bob Labrie, Jim Drawe, David Dvore

Guests: John Leary & Rich Carnall of Westfield Gas + Electric

Called to order: 7:02

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting – *August 14*

Moved by Kent Lew, seconded by MaryEllen Kennedy

Result: approved unanimously, with Bob Labrie abstaining

1. WG&E contract update – Jim Drawe stated the one remaining item to resolve: who contracts with the emergency crew for large impact events. Jim points out that major events rarely, if ever, impact the Hilltowns & Westfield simultaneously. Jim felt only 1 additional crew would be needed. Jim spoke to Mike Lee who said the plan in the original contract would be okay.

Rich Carnall replied that there have been some widespread events, including Hurricane Irene and a large early snowstorm in 2011. Emergency crews must restore power first.

John Leary would prefer to be overcautious. He does not want to be in a position where we can’t get fiber back up in a reasonable amount of time. WiredWest can make the choice not to hire an emergency crew, but John feels it’s shortsighted not to have a crew ready to fill in if Westfield can’t get a crew there. Cost is $9600/year to have a fiber crew and a line crew at the ready. John volunteered to cover WiredWest until the 3rd town is built.

1. WG&E contract vote

Vote: Motion to enter into an agreement with WGE either through their subcontractor or directly with a third party contract retainer contract for force majeure events.

David Dvore moved, Bob Labrie seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Motion to authorize Jim Drawe to sign the updated WGE contract on the condition that the force majeure paragraph is not materially different from tonight’s discussion.

Moved by Doug McNally, Seconded by David.

The motion passed unanimously.

After the discussion with Westfield, we were reminded that Jim had also proposed shortening the contract to 3 years. He will follow up with John Leary.

1. Jim asked about updating the web site with our town FAQs, acceptable use policy, etc. – John Leary is working on this. He is also working on the website redirect for wiredwestfiber.net and a separate 800 number for customer support which will be answered as “WiredWest.”

Jim will send the list of web site issues to the group.

They are planning a training session on the CRM system soon.

1. Conduit purchase – Westfield will supply a spool of conduit, billed to WiredWest. Kent will pick it up in Westfield. Jim asked Jessica to set up the sales tax filings, since we’ll need to collect sales tax from the residents.

Jim states we’ll need to work out how to charge for the conduit and collect. Kent is planning to charge up front.

1. Agenda for September 18 Board meeting

Agenda was updated.

1. Other items not anticipated within 48 hours

Kent is looking for input on ‘cold drops’ – connecting homes which are not subscribing. One idea is to allow if the customer will pay the cost of construction.

Kent – Plainfield noted what components the MLP is responsible for – they excepted the CAT6 wiring. Jim – Leverett identified some local contractors to do electrical work and he notes that wiring rarely fails. Doug thinks we should not be responsible for the inside wiring.

1. Next EC meeting – October 2

Adjourn: 8:59 pm