

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Cummington Community House

33 Main Street, Cummington MA 01026

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 7:00 pm

Called to order at 7:08 pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Approval of Minutes** September 18, 2019 – passed over, minutes not distributed.

**Report from the Chair**

Doug McNally expects everyone has seen the announcement of additional funding from the state. It will cover $500 for 70% of the homes which have signed up during the initial period. This money won’t be disbursed until after construction is complete, so towns must be able to cover the construction costs.

Jim Drawe reports that Washington had excellent sign-up event. Jim handed out current statistics of subscribers in Rowe and sign-ups in New Salem and Washington. At the current rate, we’ll have margin of $21,000+ per month.

Doug talked to 2 folks: 1 in security systems and 1 in medical alert business. They both report they are moving towards Internet for all their services. Anyone with a medical alert system should have UPS or generator. We’re considering doing a bulk buy so users can get them at a good price. Kent has been researching Power over Ethernet to power all devices (ONT, router, TELO).

Jim presented the year to date financial information (does not include October receipts from WCF): reconciliation summary and profit & loss (by cash and accrual methods). MLP fees are a passthrough to the towns, will not show up on the WW books. Jim will produce a budget variance report next month.

**WiredWest pages on WCF web site**

We’ve heard that WCF is going to change the pages, so all WW towns will have a common footer with the Privacy Policy/ Terms and Conditions/ Acceptable Use policy for WW (not WCF’s).

David has updated the WW pages to highlight the town signup and other information on operations. Doug reports that Windsor has decided to defer charging an MLP fee for 2 years. New Salem is the exception to the towns, showing a higher cost. Washington created a banner from their WCF page with Lisa’s assistance. Other towns can do this. Jim will contact Lisa for New Salem & Windsor banners.

Jim has a template for Washington’s brochure. He will create brochures for the other towns. Let Jim know if we want banners and brochures.

Windsor and Washington’s initial signup periods are about 3 months. Kent hopes to keep signups open until the first homes are lit – some people are reluctant to sign until they see it working.

**Service Suspension definition change**

Jeremy sent out suggestion “Customers may suspend service at any time. When customer resumes service, they will be charged $99 if suspension has been more than 120 days or they have resumed suspended service within 365 days.”

Jim will pass it by John Leary and then have it included on the website.

**Committee Updates**

**Finance**

**Town updates**

Goshen – Bob Labrie showed the WW/WCF service contract and Jim’s comparison document to the Selectboard. He is not receiving updates from the person working on the project with WCF. He’s working to make sure the project has enough people involved to ensure success. He has requested that the SB meet with Jim & Bob to go over the documents he has provided. Jim recommends that they propose creating an ML Board as an item for a special town meeting (a citizen has volunteered to work on that).

Heath – Art Schwenger reports the MLP/Broadband Committee are favoring WW. SB has not been focused on this due to other issues. He expects a joint meeting soon to discuss; there are still further questions. They have resolved an issue with the town accountant about MLP accounting. Jim is willing to meet to answer questions. Doug suggests reminding them of the additional requirements on a stand-alone town. Kent will send out his paper on this to Art and Jeff Piemont.

Rowe - David reports people are not being told that they need to switch over house wiring from the Verizon line once their number is ported. No written instructions are left. Sertex had a form that they left with all the information for customers, but Triwire is not leaving clear information. Doug – UG customers can have VZN line pulled, if not replaced when fiber is installed, they will have 2 days of no phone.

**Other Director Input**

**Confirm and Schedule next BoD meetings**

November 13

December 11

January 15

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

**Adjourn** 9:22 PM