

WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date / time: Wednesday, 12 February 2020 7:00 PM

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

Attending: Doug McNally, Jim Drawe, Kent Lew, MaryEllen Kennedy, Bob Labrie

Guests:

Called to order at:

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting – *January 2*
   1. Bob moved, Kent seconded
   2. Approved as amended (1 name change in #5)
2. Stocking spare fiber for future repairs

Kent asked if WW would be covering spares. WCF said they would take back anything over 2500 feet. They told New Salem lengths under 500 feet are not useful. Jim asked for information on what towns will have left over after construction. Jim will clarify with Westfield whether they will stock fiber that could be used for WW towns in emergency.

John Leary stated that WCF will be stocking drop cables of various lengths.

1. Processing payments for drops over subsidized costs

Kent met with WCF regarding drops. He expects customer should have a firm quote before agreeing to the installation, have the costs be known close to the installation time and have an accounting of the payments. The installers don’t have any cost information and he’s not sure when we will see the costs. Kent would like to work with Jim & Jessica to have WW do the billing and collections for the installation overages.

Doug – at Windsor meeting, WCF said the installers will provide the customer with the cost when making the installation appointment.

Extra work beyond standard installation will likely be done at another appointment. Kent continues to work with Chris LaVertu on refining installation costs.

1. Financing for customer installations.

Kent was investigating whether the State would help with financing for customers. Bill Ennen referred him to Berkshire Bank. They have a program, Mybanker, which has some funds. They have 3 options:

* home equity line of credit (with minimal fees) – interest rate Prime-1/2;
* unsecured LOC – Prime+4, credit score of ~650 & debt/income ratio;
* 0% credit card – 15 month loan

Bob – Goshen has approved additional funds to subsidize drops - $500,000.

1. Agenda for February 19 Board meeting
2. Other items not anticipated within 48 hours
   1. Problems reported with VoIP in Rowe, escalated to WCF. We want to be proactive and have asked for more customer information explaining problems they may encounter and telling them to escalate problems to customer support. The NOC can’t tell what the call quality is, customers must report.
   2. There are some poles being moved in Rowe, we will need to move our wires. Jim has asked WCF to handle this.
   3. Doug – muni rate of $90. Some communities, e.g. Windsor & New Salem have multiple buildings. This will cost Windsor more than its existing Axia connection. Currently the buildings are connected via microwave. Cummington is installing a server to support multiple town buildings.
   4. New Salem was told that contractor insurance only covers unreleased FSAs. Suggestion that towns use MIIA for hut and electronics and use PURMA only for the fiber. We can get a separate bill from MIIA for the hut.
3. Next EC meeting – 11 March 2020

Adjourn: 8:43 pm (moved by Bob, seconded by Doug)