

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING

Charlemont Broadband Committee

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7pm at the Charlemont Town Hall

Attending: Trevor Mackie, Doug White, Ken Hall, Mary Ellen Banks, Cheryl Handsaker, Bob Handsaker

Absent: Sean Neill

Called to order at 7:02 PM

1. Approval of minutes

- Minutes approved unanimously. Mary Ellen abstained as not having attended the original meeting.

2. Status update on WiredWest, MBI/EOHED and any local meetings

- WiredWest - full Board of Directors meeting

- Continuing to discuss the revenue sharing agreement, only members can vote on the final agreement
- 13 towns signed up, 5400 potential subscribers
- WGE final contract for being the service providers
 - MOU removed exclusivity for towns, members of WiredWest cannot negotiate with others once the contract is signed.
 - Can we withdraw immediately after the contract is signed?
- WiredWest MOU: Should we sign?
 - Perhaps issue an RFP?
 -
 - Expected respondents:
 - OTT
 - WG+E
 - WiredWest
 - Crocker?
 - Other towns believe is that there is no downside to signing the MOU. Perhaps sign so that we can have a say in the contract decision.
 - Motion to table the MOU until the new year.
 - Yes: 4
 - No : 1

- **MBI / EOHED**

- Money is not available until it is trued up. Proposing that the town promises to front the cost.
- Guidelines will be available by end of year.
- How is the money for make-ready divided?
- Opinion from Clark Rowell - town cannot do short-term borrowing based on a vague estimate. Authorization would be required at town meeting to cover the overage.
- Broadband to schedule a time to meet with Selectboard, Fin Com, and Treasurer. Agenda is to determine whether we need to do another vote. Design but not pole applications is recommended from the state perspective.
 - Subscribers vs Tax rate with pricing model
 - Review WiredWest numbers
- Bill Ennen mentioned pricing \$120 phone/ internet for some of the other towns. We want to review whether this is in line with the items.
- 5G? How will this affect the pricing model regarding take rate?
- New HughesNet is better but has a data plan.

3. Status update on WG+E pole survey and network design

- New version of the maps
- PVC was in town on Monday
- Cheryl will upload the newest maps to Google Drive
- Cheryl is working on Rick Durant contract
 - Scope of work is in progress
 - Template contract is in place, reviewed by Donna McNicole
 - Will pass it by Peg as well as the Broadband Committee
- Bob is continuing to work on the WG+E contract to move forward with design

4. Discussion of Network Design

a. Discussion related to the hut

- Interior cabinet (80" high, 36 deep, 48 wide)
- 2 19" racks
- EIC Solutions, PA company - Doug has spoken with a sales engineer - most items are custom. The one displayed was approximately \$10,500
 - Cooling using
 - Cable exit cutouts

- Locking cabinet
- Delivery for an extra fee
- Outside venting is possible
- Free estimate is available for our work
- Device related heat use will be estimated
- MBI uses an outside AC unit, so this is not an issue for the room.
- Bidding process we can specify it exactly, either a separate contract
- We think this is significantly lower than an external concrete unit.
- Next action, ask designer for the using this equipment.
 - Joe asked to send pictures that have not been received
 - Do we need additional cabinets for fiber storage?
- Measure and sketch
 - Keep off the ground?
 - Space
- Consider a fenced cage for security with airflow

b. Discussion of design issues related to neighboring towns

Next Actions

- WiValley meeting, Wed eve
- Joint meeting, Jan 5
- Next meeting, Tuesday January 9
- Commitment to provide input into the policy document by January 2