

Shutesbury Broadband Committee Meeting		
2.2.2017	6:30-8:30	Town Hall
Facilitator	Gaye Huntress	
Minute Keeper	Asha Strazzero-Wild	
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asha Strazzero-Wild <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin <input type="checkbox"/> Frank Citino <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ayers Hall (dialed in) <input type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Stocker	
Guest Attendees	Becky Torres (Town Admin), Joyce Brauhnut, Tom Williams, Kent Whitney, Jon Thompson (townspeople), Chris Lynch (Matrix)	
Approve Minutes from 1/22/2017 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (unanimous) <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (unanimous approval)		
Update on MBI and WiredWest		
Discussion Notes		
<p>Updates:</p> <p>Last Friday Mike Vinskey and Gayle met with Peter Larkin (on way to Procurement workshop) – head of MBI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointing meeting; didn't get any information that we needed/ wanted • A lot of talking in circles • Peter shared new process for new professional services portion; that has been revised again • Will use the entire \$360K and it will take 12 months just to get us the design and hand this over to the town; no support to help towns manage the build- aka we are building ourselves! Leverett and Matrix have both estimated \$40-60K for basic design. MBI is providing more than just design, but do not know what exactly at this time • Public knowledge but not public announcement • Bottom line: MBI is not going to follow through on promises that have been made <p>Procurement Meeting happened later on Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve, Eric and Becky attended • AG and IG office- tons of focus and depth on procurement and RFPs • Procurement officer said MLP that said if there wasn't a physical plant in existence are not exempt under 30B like a regular MLP in their recent determination- huge impact on how we go out to bid • John Furey from MBI was also there—John confirmed they aren't going to do the build anymore • There was never a formal announcement of this • Peter Larkin did some closing remarks; went over an hour, didn't answer the rest of the questions saying he had "to go negotiate for the town"—just ran out and gave no clear explanation; did say towns weren't going to do the build • Jim Drawe and Becky caught up with Natasha the procurement officer and came up with potential solution; elections for MLP boards—we can do that – will need a special town election and then a follow up at town meeting. • David Kulp asked some good questions- Ayres confirmed no timeline given. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want a special town meeting to request funds and do the design ourselves • Should push the state to get our money back • Pole survey is stalling; Leyden was supposed to be done but they aren't • RFP that went out wasn't written by engineers, it was written by lawyers • Steve said that what we put together would be fine for an engineer (MBI said that Verizon wanted the Osmose pole survey)- and now that they aren't going to help so does it really matter if we get that pole survey? <p>Two tracks ahead for Shutesbury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own and build our own network • Sign grant money to a private company to do this work- build and own. RFPs Shutesbury is eligible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Westfield Gas and Electric- disqualified as submitted ○ Crocker- take \$510K from MBI and we would have no tax increase, only cover 70% and require an additional \$2K per customer OR cover 96% and require an additional \$3K-- ~\$2.4 million up front to them overall; townspeople would pay. Owned by Crocker. ○ Comcast- hybrid fiber coaxial (NOT fiber, see below); only offered to 4 towns; 3 towns are non-severable (all take or no one gets it) and required to give \$510K and another \$1.1M and only to 96% and construction schedule not specified. Owned by Comcast. ○ Charter- hybrid fiber coaxial (NOT fiber); 4 towns non-severable. No tax increase, if state provides additional resources, TV is included; but again, only covers 96%, fiber/cable mix. Asking for full \$510K plus an additional \$1.4M from the state. Gayle spoke to New Salem and asked them to ask Peter Larkin (meeting with him tonight) to ask about node coverage as well as what towns are non-severable. Steve talked to his brother (engineer) who reported back this is obsolescent technology; 20 years ago that's great but today to build a hybrid system is ridiculous- fiber is now cheaper. It's well known this method is last generation. Also said that they are a maintenance nightmare because you have to service nodes on poles and each node requires electricity- if the power is out to the pole with the node then all subscribers served by that node are dead until that is fixed. Charter also provided a map of all the places they are not going to cover- probably won't install nodes there- NO universal coverage. No timing – 2.5 years to complete. Chris noted that we also need to account for additional legal time. Becky added that Lanesboro 		

ACTION

Information	Action	Notes
Get information on MLP Legal 30B	Becky to follow up with Natasha from IG office Becky to follow up with Jim Drawe	
Answer MLP Legal 30B (WiredWest looking into this)	Special town meeting to create an MLP board and would have to have a second town meeting in May to elect MLP board	To be exempt from certain laws – appointed MLP board is not exempt so you have to elect MLP officials Ask for the design amount NEED TO DO FIRST to not undermine any bids
Quote from Design and Engineer and Build Manager	Can't talk to WhipCity yet – don't want to interfere with RFP process Then: 1) Talk to capital planning, 2) Talk to finance, 3) Talk to Select Board to get warrant article	Do we need full \$360 of our estimated professional services or can we do it for cheaper? Graeme is doing a review of Whip City data and getting hidden costs
	Outreach in March or April – Info sessions etc.	
	Vote at Town Meeting in May	
Fin Comm	What is the best way to get \$360K- where to get it? How do we get / what's the best way to get \$50K at a special town meeting?	
Info session	Let people know that info sessions are coming via NextDoor	

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Asha to call Paul Sealoft from Lanesboro to get the run down on situation	Asha	
Becky to follow up with Natasha from IG office and Jim Drawe	Becky	
Eric to follow up with Fin Comm- What is the best way to get \$360K- where to get it? How do we get / what's the best way to get \$50K at a special town meeting?	Eric	

Set Next Meeting

2.2.2017	TBA	TBA
Agenda Items		
Adjourn		