

Shutesbury Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2017 Shutesbury Town Hall

Select Board members present: Mike Vinskey/Chair, Michael DeChiara, and Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil

Staff present: Becky Torres/Town Administrator; Linda Avis Scott/Administrative Secretary

Broadband Committee members present: Gayle Huntress and Asha Strazzero-Wild/Co-chairs, Steve Schmidt, Graeme Sephton, Frank Citino, Ayres Hall, Eric Stocker, and Craig Martin

Guest: Chris Lynch/Matrix

At 6:50pm, the Broadband Committee meeting is in process; Vinskey and Makepeace-O'Neil are present for this meeting. The Select Board meeting merges with the Broadband Committee at 7:00pm.

The 1.5.17 draft letter to Peter Larkin/Chairman MBI Board of Directors is reviewed and revised. The rationale for supporting WiredWest and/or Crocker is discussed; all agree to language "supporting a locally controlled regional cooperative such as WiredWest". Huntress will prepare the letter for Select Board consideration during their 1.10.17 meeting. Per Huntress, one of the purposes of the letter is to encourage MBI to consider smaller companies, such as Crocker, that do not meet MBI's size requirements (income and number of customers). The RFP is for the design/build of broadband solutions for the Last Mile towns. Per Huntress, companies are submitting their proposals to MBI; it is expected MBI will release these proposals for towns to consider; Shutesbury is well prepared to evaluate these options.

To have more influence over policy, Huntress proposes a resolution for the Select Board to consider. The 1.5.17 draft resolution is reviewed. At 7:19pm, DeChiara joins the meeting. The resolution was recommended by the WiredWest team and is directed to Jay Ash/Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED). Huntress: in the next six months, decisions relative to the success of broadband will be made; this resolution will go "to the top" and demands towns have input into policy. Schmidt: a response to the resolution sent in December 2016 remains pending; suggests contacting Senator Stan Rosenberg for support. Strazzero-Wild joins the meeting at 7:26pm. Huntress emphasizes the need to communicate directly with those who write policy. DeChiara suggests adjusting the language of the 1.5.17 draft and addressing it to State Senator Rosenberg and State Representative Kulik.

Sephton: our town wants to be part of the policy discussion. Plan: Huntress will call Carolyn Kirk/Deputy Secretary EOHED to ascertain her response to Shutesbury's December request and, if indicated, DeChiara will follow-up with Rosenberg. The 1.5.17 draft resolution is on hold pending these actions.

The pole survey has been started and is expected to be complete by the end of January.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with MBI was signed in late September; Shutesbury has yet to receive a signed copy. Huntress: John Furey/MBI recently informed her that the MOA has been revised; the new agreement gives Shutesbury full ownership of the data. DeChiara moves to approve the “Memorandum of Agreement – Pole Survey Work” received 1.5.17; Makepeace-O’Neil seconds the motion that is unanimously passed. The relevant parties sign the document.

WiredWest will be unveiling their newest regional operations plan for a “fiber to the home” network during a 1.28.17 workshop for town leaders; participation is encouraged. Huntress: the Broadband Committee will review the proposals as they become available. A revote at town meeting will depend upon the broadband model for Shutesbury. Martin: if Shutesbury decides to build on its own, the pole survey and design costs will have already been paid by MBI. Huntress: if the town builds out on its own, it is unknown if the design cost will be covered by MBI. Huntress and Strazzero-Wild will be meeting with John Furey/MBI Construction Manager during the week of 1.9.17 and will ask about payment for the design. DeChiara recommends legal guidance on obtaining a written agreement for design payment. Vinskey: depending on the timing, if a town vote is needed, a special town meeting can be held. Sephton: the MLP has discretion over the design. Lynch: thus far, it seems the proposals costs are much higher than MBI expected; cites the example of Princeton considering Comcast and Charter. Martin: as individual towns, we “will not have a place at the table” unless towns band together. Huntress: even if the town walks away from MBI, the pole survey and design will be paid for and we will still be eligible for \$510,000 of build-out money. DeChiara emphasizes the need for the town meeting preparatory steps to be taken. Lynch: the interim step has already been taken; the MBI construction allocation has not been changed; potentially, the design cost could be higher. Sephton: it is not a good idea for Shutesbury to do our own design. Huntress states she has confidence in the MBI design and engineering teams.

Makepeace-O’Neil moves and DeChiara seconds a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:34pm.

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

1. 1.5.17 email from WiredWest
2. 1.5.17 draft letter and 12.12.16 letter to Peter Larkin/MBI Board of Directors Chair
3. 1.5.17 draft resolution to Jay Ash/Secretary EOHEd
4. Pole Survey Work MOA 1.5.17 version and earlier version
5. Comparison Chart

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Avis Scott
Administrative Secretary