



SHUTESBURY PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Posted in accordance with the provisions of MGL 30A §§18-25

Shutesbury Broadband Committee/MLP Board

Monday, January 28, 2019

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM Committee Meeting

Shutesbury Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Take Attendance

Eric Stocker

Frank Citino

Ayers Hall – phone

Gayle Huntress - minutes

Craig Martin

Graeme Sephton

Steve Schmidt

Kent Whitney – phone

Jim Heminway

2. Approve Minutes from 1/14 – Approved

3. Drop Bid Update – out by tomorrow

4. Overall Project Update, Review of Important Dates

Strand is almost totally up in FSA04 – already started stringing fiber there last week. FSA03 will have material delivery WED and they'll start putting fiber there no later than Friday. TriWire worked on Tuesday when it was freezing, they worked on Thursday when it was pouring rain.

Important dates review:

January 29th Bid Released/posted on Combuys

Feb 1 bidders meeting, noon

Feb 12 4PM bids due - meeting that night instead of Monday

Feb 15 Logo entrants due, 5PM

Feb 16 Choose logo Sat meeting and continue review of bid responses

Feb 19th FinCom/Selectboard meeting

Feb 20 post warrant for town meeting (tentative)

March 6 Special Town Meeting (tentative)

FEB 6 – hut coordination meeting with triwire and jim

5. CAF II Update

WGE is going to have a third party administer the CAFII filing information and the Lifeline administration. All towns who sign with us will share equally in the CAFII administration and the Lifeline administration will be paid for per user. We are not getting charged more than other towns.

So there will be TWO admin charges for the program.

1) A per user charge based on all subscribed premises. Likely \$1-3 dollars annually. So, for example for 700 users x \$2 that would be \$1400 per year (this is an ESTIMATE. They actually don't know what the charge will be yet.

2) A per user charge for each user that receives Lifeline. What would happen is that we would advertise we have lifeline reduced rates. That individual would contact the third party administrator who would collect their information, determine eligibility, database it at the state and federal level. Then, those individuals would have \$9.25 deducted from their ISP bill. The ISP would get reimbursed for \$9.25 x # eligible subscribers. So Crocker would work with the third party admin directly on this to get reimbursed.

Shutesbury would get \$14000 annually for 10 years for participation. This is a flat rate and we get it if three or three hundred people take lifeline service. It doesn't matter. We get this flat rate annually no matter how many people use the Lifeline service – these are all funds in addition.

Here's a catch: The per subscriber admin fees will start in Sept. no matter what. If we're providing service we get charged the per subscriber admin fee. BUT we won't see any money until 95% of towns are built. So, we're likely to pay a few thousand bucks for three years before we see any return.

If the program fails (a town decides not build) then we don't get admin fees recouped.

WGE is working with the state to reduce this risk by paying for admin fees for first few years.

So the math works something like this...\$1500-\$2500 per year admin charges. For a return of \$14000 PLUS lifeline subsidies for anyone who qualifies (that benefit goes right to the user, we don't see it)

The risk is that we'd shell out ~\$6000 and see nothing for it. Or get \$140,000.

Generally agreed it is worth the risk. Gayle to find out: Does the per-subscriber fee apply to only premises within the eligible census blocks within Shutesbury service area or ALL subscribers regardless of location?

Are all subscribers eligible to apply for Lifeline discount or only those subscribers whose premise is within an eligible Census block?

What is the final per-subscriber annual cost for administration?

What is the final per-subscriber annual cost for those that receive the Lifeline funding?

Are there any other charges to be part of the program beyond those two per-subscriber charges?

6. Other Business

WGE held two presentations in January about ISP/NO offerings. We heard from counterparts in other towns presentations were really well done. Reviewed current model with WGE for Installation/NO/ISP services again as well as pricing. Crocker pricing still less than WGE. Services similar to Crocker.

HUT Update

No delivery date yet. Steve will check on. Hut coordination meeting scheduled.

Backhaul

Need information from Crocker re: 10GB Verizon connection to make decision and clarification of Axia rates, Crown Castle rates.

Policy decisions

How to serve town buildings: Library, School, Town Hall, Fire Station, Highway Dept.

Makes sense to have school billed separately since they are not line item budget, unlike other buildings.

Need to figure out how much real estate expenses are (propane, electricity, plowing, generator maintenance) to put a dollar figure on it. Then can figure out how to serve buildings. Likely will be significant savings if buildings take phone service. Need to find out how mult. Phone lines are handled.

Short discussion about other policy decisions we need to make in next few months.

7. Adjourn 7:15