

Leyden Broadband Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 11/3/15 7:00 pm

Attendees: Bob Anson, David Curtis, Tom Luck, Jeff Neipp, Bob Ryan, and Al Woodhull.

Minutes from October 6, 2015 accepted and approved.

Old Business:

On October 28th, David Curtis, Tom Luck, Jeff Neipp, Bob Ryan, Sheila Hourihan and Al Woodhull attended a meeting with Kelley Management of Wilbraham. Kelley Management is currently working with the City of Greenfield to build out their Broadband Network. It was reported that, according to Kelley Management, our town has the right to use the existing poles for the build out of our broadband network. If we went forward with our own build out, independent of Wired West and contracting with Kelley Management Group our costs may be considerably less than those projected by Wired West. The projected wiring cost, according to Wired West, is \$40,000 per mile of wire. Kelley Management claimed that they could provide the same setup for \$14,000 per mile. The Committee will act to ascertain whether we could coordinate the construction of our network with the construction of the network in Greenfield. Greenfield's Mayor Martin is asking the voters for the creation of an independent MLP that would handle the management and billing of the broadband network for its 18,000 residents. If Leyden chooses to install its own broadband network the service and administration of its network could possibly be handled by Greenfield's MLP. Kelley Management has projected that Greenfield's build-out will be paid for in seven years. Greenfield was not included in the scope of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute because of the size of the city is too large.

Al Woodhull is a member of the Wired West (WW) Technical Committee and reported on information from Jim Drawe, President and Treasurer of WW. Al reported that Jim Drawe states that a town does not automatically have space on the poles. Greenfield has use of their poles because of the existing citywide fire alarm system. Greenfield long ago exercised their right to use space on the poles in their city, but Leyden has not yet set up use of the poles. Our use would require a process of application, - and negotiation as to possible rental fees for the use of each pole. Al reports that approximately one third of WW's projected cost is apportioned to the make-ready process of securing room for our wires and negotiating usage of the poles.

Jeff reported that 19 or 20 towns have turned over their planning funds to WW. A large town, Otis, has left Wired West. If Leyden chose to leave WW we believe that it would have very little effect on their viability. Members of the Committee are concerned about possible ramifications for WW if more towns choose to leave. Al stated that that very concern is being looked at by both MBI and WW.

Al suggested that it might be advisable for multiple towns to engage the law firm of Coppleman and Paige. This would enable cost sharing in order to lower overall expenses for our build-out.

MBI has a fiscal responsibility to award any underserved town a \$5,000 planning grant within a reasonable amount of time. If Leyden is ready to go on a broadband build-out by June of 2016 – at the latest 2017 – the grant monies are guaranteed to us. If we fail to act before then, the grant is not guaranteed. We are in fact within 4 families signing up in order to reach our 40% goal. Leyden is in one of the best shapes among all the towns to be able to finance the build-out.

Bob Ryan reported that the premise count for Leyden is 325. Comparisons of multiple street lists and on site observations yielded this number. We feel that it is a solid number that will enable us to move forward in this process.

New Business:

We have signed a letter of support for a bond concept discussed in our last meeting. This allows towns to renew the bond on a yearly basis year that enables interest rates to remain low. The bond will be available to us whether or not we are tied into WW.

Wired West is hoping to become a Limited Liability Corporation. Wired West's only asset will be the wired network itself and its planned 18,000 premise network. That in itself could be a very large asset. The governance of WW at this time allows for each member town to have a vote on matters. Some of those voting towns have decided not to engage with WW but, until the new organizational structure is implemented, still possess that right to vote on decisions concerning WW.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.