

# **Leyden Broadband Committee Meeting**

## **Minutes**

May 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Attendees: Bob Ryan, Lance Fritz, David Curtis, Tom Luck, and Bob Anson.

The meeting was called to order by Chm. Ryan at 7 pm

Minutes from the May 3 were tabled until they can be retyped and resent. Al Woodhull took exception to a number of items in the minutes. Secretary will revise the minutes to reflect Al's objection. Al also suggested that we record the meetings of our committee going forward. We discussed this at the start of this meeting and agreed that it would be a good idea. This meeting was recorded.

Bob Ryan said that he still feels that there are two items in Wired West's plan that must be changed. One is the ownership issue of assets paid for by the Town. The other is the penalty for leaving the Cooperative. Until those things are changed he does not want to consider Wired West as an option for the Town of Leyden.

Tom Luck brought up the fact that many environmental factors can have an adverse effect on wireless internet to the home. He feels that wireless to the home should not be considered for Leyden. The speed of wireless is not sufficient to meet the requirements for true broadband. In addition to the speed requirements, wireless systems are dependent upon the presence of electricity. If the electricity goes out we would lose telephone with a wireless system. Bob Ryan pointed out that the decision to wire each home will eventually be based on the cost for that build out and what we can get for \$1,750,000.

Lance suggested a hybrid system where we would have each home wired, but a wireless option could be useful in some instances. The Committee wants to construct our system so that there is as much coverage as possible while minimizing outages that affect large areas.

New Business:

Discussion of an agenda for the Committee's 5/23/16 meeting with the Colrain Selectboard.

Colrain is a little bit larger than Leyden. They have more miles of road than we do. They have 775 premises. Their equalized tax valuation "EQV" is \$161,000,000, versus Leyden's EQV of \$87,000,000. The equalized value represents the full and fair cash value of all taxable property within a municipality.

There was general consensus that the one biggest reason for Colrain and Leyden to be looking at tying into Greenfield was the additional outage protection such an affiliation would afford each of the towns involved ;

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Bob Anson  
Clerk.