

Leyden Broadband Committee Meeting

Minutes

July 8, 2016 at 10:00 am

Committee members present: Bob Ryan, Tom Luck, Bob Anson, Al Woodhull, Sheila Hourihan, Lance Fritz.

Others present: John Furey, MBI Construction Manager and Program Manager for Readiness, Ginger Robinson, Leyden Finance Committee member, Jeff Neipp Selectboard Chair, Michelle Giaruso Finance Committee Chair, Shelby Ashlyn member of the press.

The meeting was called to order by Chm. Ryan at 10:00 am.

John Furey introduced himself and gave his background. John is representing the Massachusetts Broadband Institute during the initial planning phase of our network creation. He spoke about the importance of this readiness phase for the development of our network, especially in terms of financial readiness.

We reviewed our prepared document: **Last Mile Town Readiness Submission Form**. John's goal is to take approximately 21 days to process that document and get the document to the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services (DLS) to seek their approval of our plan. Ultimately John has to recommend the approval of our plan to the Board of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC). The MTC can then free up funds to help our project move forward.

John referenced the need to develop a timeline that specifies when financial outlays will be made during construction.

As we apply for the \$5,000 planning grant, we will file that application as a Town rather than as a Municipal Lighting Plant.

There was a short discussion of additional funding opportunities that may become available to Leyden in order to assist in the creation of our network. MBI is actively looking for ways to partner with granting agencies.

As a part of the “make-ready” process the Town collects data on each utility pole in Leyden and submits that data to the utility. In our case Verizon is responsible for maintenance of all the poles in Leyden, but they share 50% of the ownership of those poles with Eversource. Verizon takes our application for use of the poles and the accompanying application fee. They will then begin an examination of each pole that includes the placement of existing and proposed wires and any repair or replacement costs necessary to bring each pole up to standard. An estimate for the cost of this work, a “make-ready estimate” will be generated for the Town. Depending on a variety of circumstances this make ready cost can be considerable.

John Furey discussed the possibility of over-lashing our new cable with the existing middle-mile cable that currently extends from Greenfield to the Leyden Town Hall. That practice of over-lashing, if allowed, would have a much lower cost than the full make-ready cost for that length of wire. Leyden could potentially save some of the make ready cost if the over-lashing technique were to be approved.

Discussion of choosing a Network Topology of Active Ethernet (AE) or Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON). John Furey offered to set up a meeting with our Committee to discuss this choice more deeply.

We are hoping to wire 99% of the town. Leyden has 325 homes, 300 of which are permanent residences and 25 are seasonal residences. We are hoping to wire as many of the seasonal homes as possible. We wondered if it would be possible, or profitable, to wire homes at the borders of our towns that are adjoining Leyden homes, but in a different municipality or even in the State of Vermont. One obvious candidate is Camp Lion Knoll in Leyden but only reachable from Greenfield’s roads.

It is agreed that we need to maximize the number of subscribers to our network in order to lower the overall cost to each individual subscriber. We also agreed to plan on a maximum driveway length for a wire drop of 750 feet.

John Furey will compile our information, get input and preapproval from the Division of Local Services and draft a letter to us outlining our decisions concerning the structure of the network. The Broadband Committee will then

look over the letter to make sure that we agree on the path forward outlined and/or make revisions to said letter. After any revisions John Furey, on behalf of MBI, and the Committee will jointly agree to move forward. John Furey will then present the letter to Peter Larkin, Board Chair of MBI, who will bring it to the MBI board on our town's behalf.

John Furey will arrange a technology informational meeting for us in Leyden on Wednesday August 3, 2016 at 10:00 am.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.