

Leyden Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2016 at 7:00 pm

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

The meeting was called to order by Chm. Ryan at 7:00 pm.

The minutes from our last regular Broadband Committee Meeting of September 7, 2016 unanimously accepted.

Discussion of Town Broadband Forum on 11/10/16. We want to have this after the hard copies of the newsletter come out. We are not rescinding votes. We are taking new votes to replace them. Prop 2.5 has no mechanism to rescind a vote.

There was a discussion of the meeting between Lance, Bob Ryan and John Furey that took place on 9/21/16. In that meeting: MBI is willing to put us in with the second round of build-outs. Our Bond Council needs to provide a "Green Light Letter" to potential owners of the Town's broadband bond as to their legality and tax free status. Bob is currently working with Liz Johnson in order to pull the various documents together that the Bond Council needs.

In November we will have our new votes and in December we can start our pole survey. MBI has hired a Project Manager to work on behalf of Leyden, Osmose Utilities Services Inc., who will conduct the actual pole survey. They need 30 days to finish the task and will then help the Town put the application package to the Utility Company together.

We will file package application with the utilities hopefully as early as Jan 1, 2017. The Town will have to pay an application fee in the neighborhood of \$20,000. The Utility then takes time to certify the results of the pole survey. Utility will come back to us with a price to perform the pole make-ready work. Once we accept that price we will be required to put down 30% of project cost at that point.

Prior to March 1, 2017 we will need to work with Clark Rowell, Financial Advisor, on a plan to put the deposit monies together. MBI will release the make-ready

Broadband Meeting 10/4/16

monies as they see fit. It will take 180 days to finish the make-ready process. We hope to start construction in October of 2017 and be live in October 2018.

We hope to have other things being prepared in parallel with the make-ready work. There is a very long lead time required to receive a fiber order. We hope to order our fiber around the same time as we begin our pole survey. We can also begin the construction of our hut and placement of the racks to accept the equipment during the made ready period

We plan on beginning a subscription drive by January of 2018. There will also be an educational component involved to bring our residents up to speed on how their home based equipment will be configured.

These timetables are somewhat contingent on getting the "Green Light" letter with the authorization from MBI to move forward with our Broadband Project on or around December 1, 2016.

There are three important Broadband related events coming up in November. An authorization vote will take place at a Special Town Meeting on November 14th. We need to get people to the town meeting so we can have 2/3 of the people at the meeting voting in favor of broadband. An exclusion vote will occur via an all day balloting on the 21st of November. A town-wide Broadband Forum is scheduled on November 10th to provide information to the town's residents concerning the progress of the Broadband Committee and construction plans.

We will need to decide whether Leyden Broadband should be run as a Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP) or an Enterprises Fund. If the MLP is the way we want to go, Bob Ryan has included money in the \$5K Planning Grant for an accounting firm in Worcester who specializes in MLPs accounting. A Municipal Lighting Plant deals with the Department of Public Utilities instead of the Department Of Revenue.

The next regular Broadband Committee meeting would normally be scheduled of November 8th. That is not possible since that day is Election Day. We should, instead meet on November 1st. This will allow us to plan the Broadband Forum.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Anson, clerk