

Leyden Broadband Committee
Special Meeting with Westfield Gas and Electric
Minutes
March 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm
Leyden Town Hall

Committee members present: Bob Ryan, Bob Anson, David Curtis, Tom Luck, and Al Woodhull.

Also present were Aaron Bean, Operations Manager and John Leary, IT Supervisor from Westfield Gas and Electric, and Jerry Lund, Leyden resident.

Bob Ryan reviewed Leyden's Initial Model of Infrastructure and Capital Expenditures (CAPEX) compiled by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). Bob spoke of some differences between what is on the MBI Initial Model and our Committee's findings. We have 300 households with an additional 10 seasonal homes. We believe there are 35 miles of road, not 44 as stated in the outline. Leyden has 921 poles that will eventually host the fiber network.

We have been concerned for months that state monies available to the towns for building the networks might have been used instead for MBI expenditures and thus diminished. We now know that through the efforts of the Governor all of those earmarked dollars are restored and available to the towns to assist in the construction of broadband networks. The costs for fiber, electronics and our hut will be around \$900,000.

There was discussion of Westfield Gas and Electric's (WG&E) participation in the build-out and possible management of the network in Leyden. WG&E would charge a 6% project management fee on the network cost and a procurement fee of 1% for any purchases of fiber and equipment that we would seek. This is less than what MBI had in their projections.

When WG&E does a pole survey their methodology is slightly different from what Osmose does and includes a survey of the dwelling units and driveway lengths. They also capture attachment heights, which are not provided by Osmose. WG&E are finding through past experience, that the data forthcoming from the Osmose

pole surveys are not sufficient to satisfy the needs of local utilities. Discussion was had concerning the protocols of attaching new wire to our poles, and what height our cable would be attached.

Bob Ryan has an overriding concern about the condition of our poles. Those poles that are deemed to be inadequate can have a profound effect on the reliability of power and communication within the town. They must not be bypassed, but rather each inadequacy needs to be corrected and brought up to modern standards. Perhaps it is even a matter of negligence by the utilities that own said poles that has caused them to deteriorate. Remedies may have to be negotiated with the help of our Representatives in State Government.

WG&E offers an a la carte menu of network construction services that they can perform for Leyden. They, of course, would love to be our Internet Service Provider at the end of the process and they would hope to earn that business. But we can choose what services we need from WG&E in the construction phase.

The next step for Westfield Gas & Electric will be to get Leyden financial numbers for the design of the system, project management and procurement fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Anson, Clerk