

# Leyden Broadband Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 12/1/15 7:00 PM

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

Minutes from November 3, 2015 accepted and approved.

## Old Business

Bob Ryan gave an update on the progress of creating the street list. We are currently amassing complete telephone numbers and email addresses to add to this list. It is hoped that the town and committee can make use of this accurate mailing list. We discussed the various lists currently in print containing Leyden's information. Our wish is to have a fully accurate and consolidated list for use by the town. Bob also updated our residence count.

## New Business:

During a follow up meeting with the Kelley Management Group at the Greenfield Town Hall on 11/18/15 we discussed further the possibility of building out our own network and contracting with Greenfield's MLP to administratively manage and maintain it. Mayor Bill Martin has expressed an interest in talking with other surrounding towns concerning their plans for their own networks. Cooperation with the City of Greenfield might shorten the time that it takes for Leyden to construct our network. One advantage of Greenfield's current plan for their hybrid system is that cell phones could be used to connect to internet.

Bob Ryan passed out summations of the financial statements attached to the current Wired West's draft Business Plan as well as their current draft Operating Agreement. There are proposals existing in that Operating Agreement that make some committee members uncomfortable. One area of discord within the committee concerns the ultimate ownership of the physical network to be paid for, set up, and used within Leyden. According to Bob Ryan, there are material accounting errors within the spreadsheets attached to the draft Wired West business plan last published in June 2015. He further said that he has spoken with WW's Jim Drawe and made him aware of them.

Al Woodhull has made an inspection of existing internet speeds of the system currently in trial operation in Greenfield. He reports that the speeds vary widely from one location to another and do not yet reach the current acceptable level of Broadband service. It was noted that 52% of the individuals in Leyden who signed up for a future broadband service expressed interest in speeds in excess of the minimum. Al Woodhull's inspection did not find evidence of high quality broadband coverage.

David Curtis reported that when the system in Greenfield is fully constructed that they plan on capacity for hundreds, if not thousands of clients to be utilizing the network at any given moment in time. Kelley Management plans on providing speeds of at least 25MBps. The need for a meeting directly with Mayor Martin was discussed and it is thought that such a meeting can be arranged soon.

Jeff Neipp reminded those in attendance that 150 households in Leyden signed up for Wired West, not an alternative, but Wired West itself. Thirty-one towns within our region have already committed to working with Wired West. He also stated that Leyden's share of the build-out costs numbers \$1,750,000.

Sheila Hourihan feels that we need to make assertive proactive steps forward to initiate the build out of the network. If we hold off making a decision about how to implement construction of the network we will delay the overall system start up.

Meanwhile, Tom Luck feels that the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative has serious reservations about the plans published so far by Wired West. MBI feels that they cannot support Wired West unless significant alterations are

made to Wired West's Business Plan and Operating Agreement. Tom fears that if Leyden signs onto an agreement with Wired West before MBI's concerns have been assuaged, then MBI might not support or fund our share of the network build-out.

Jeff Neipp reported that Eric Nakajima of MBI assured him that the towns would get their funding from MBI. Tom Luck asked if Wired West could act as its own billing authority as Greenfield plans to do.

Jeff Neipp reminded the committee that he will soon have a piece of paper that he needs to sign as a commitment to Wired West. Many on the Committee urged a thoughtful reconciliation before signing is made.

The report from the Wired West delegates as to the new operating plan was not given due to lack of time to read and digest the recently released documents.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.