

Plainfield Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes February 13, 2017

Committee Members Present: Brian Hawthorne, David Kramer, Kimberly Longey, Michael Lumsden, Leslie Rule, Sally Silberberg,

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Plainfield Town Hall.

Brian reviewed the agenda and requested approval of the Minutes of January 09, 2017. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously. Brian then requested approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2017. A motion was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Howard Bernstein, Chair of the Select board joined the meeting at 7:15 and left the meeting at 8:30

MBI Update

Review of MBI PP RFP response

Motion passed unanimously for Brian to draft a recommendation for design and engineering to be delivered to the Select Board on 2/13. Brian suggested a course of action where Plainfield meets with WG&E and requests a bid for Design and Engineering and presents it to MBI asking them to 1) meet the bid, or 2) hire WG&E to do the work, or 3) just release the money. Brian created a spreadsheet using figures from WG&E's proposal and came up with a total cost for professional services equaling an amount just under 205k.

(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kIlvRfeYeVvd5Y9yl_s3ogWa8L9_zur4XKru7YyWIAw/edit#gid=0)

Brian pointed out that these divisions between professional services and construction are artificial constructs and not part of the original legislation. After further discussion, it was determined that we would not agree to leave any of the town's allocation of 650k on the table, either the professional service pot or the construction pot.

Crocker's proposal is a non-starter because of the percentage of homes guaranteed coverage and required payment of 2k-3k from property owners.

New Last Mile Model by MBI

MBI has a new last mile model; it is unclear to those present that have heard it explained how it is meant to work. We have requested Bill Ennen bring a visual to explain the process.

Planning for MBIs Private Provider RFP Public Hearing 2/16

It was decided that Kimberly and Howard (as chair of the Select Board) would represent Plainfield and speak at the Private Provider RFP response meeting. Howard would open with an abridged version of the written testimony that Kimberly would craft and provide. Brian would do the editing down into a 3-minute section. Kimberly would speak during the last section and attempt to summarize comments for the panel. Sally and Kimberly would attend the entire meeting so as to get a big picture understanding of the responses,

the tenor of the meeting, and MBIs reaction to the responses.

2/14 Select Board meeting

Bill Ennen is attending the 2/14 Select Board meeting to discuss the new model and answer old questions. Agreed that Leslie would run that part of the Select board meeting. Scheduled to start at 7:15. This is the agenda/list of questions Kimberly sent Bill asking him to address.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kUDYiZvViU4ca501hWym8ci28k-jSLkX1LFXbYXRdM/edit>

WiredWest's Operations Proposal

The discussion of WiredWest's operations proposal was discussed. It was mentioned that network operation is at least 2 years down the road, so this is not in need of immediate deliberation. Leslie mentioned that in order to negotiate with WG&E, WW will need to know which towns are interested in participating so it is more timely than just when we will officially engage in operations.

Kimberly brought up the need for a Clerk of the Works for the build; citing best practices on builds like this. General discussion ensued. A meeting is in the works between the towns of Charlemont, Ashfield, and others and Plainfield and Westfield Gas & Electronic. Plainfield will take part in the meeting but will need to start its own conversation soon after. Kimberly will send out an email when she gets notice of when and where this initial meeting will take place.

MLP and the 2018 FY budget

All monies required for the cost of the overall fiber to the home network will be run through an MLP account. The fact that the MLP manager is also on the Select Board could trigger conflict of interest concerns. Given this and the changing nature of the role of an MLP and its manager, Plainfield's MLP structure will have to be revisited. Leslie offered to check into the ways that other towns are setting up their MLP structure. WiredWest has some information available on the website, including opinions from lawyers specializing in MLP laws

<http://wiredwest.net/advice-for-towns/mlp-startup-operational-considerations/>

Brian has also researched this in the past and pulled the relevant MA General Laws
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XqVf8qwIuNfvdzx5TERCmCTTBOEQfe2YbXERMI LyPzQ/edit>

Outreach to Town

In response to a letter of concern sent by Lew Robbins over the changing nature of the Broadband Build and towns people understanding of that change, Sally will develop an outreach plan to let the people of Plainfield know the changes that have occurred over the last 18 months. The committee needs to communicate the whys of the budget recommendations for the MLP (broadband project) and taxpayer/subscriber split on bond repayment and depreciation reserves. This outreach effort will include a town-wide informational meeting, as well as similar informal outreach efforts as done in April/May before the ATM of 2015. Leslie and Michael offered to assist.

Motion to adjourn unanimously passed at 9:06

Minutes as approved at the February 27, 2017 meeting.