

**Plainfield Broadband Committee**  
Meeting Minutes November 14, 2016

Committee Members Present: Brian Hawthorne, Kimberly Longey, Lew Robbins, Michal Lumsden, Leslie Rule

Others Present: David Kramer

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at Town Hall.

Kimberly agreed to take minutes. Brian reviewed the agenda.

**Minutes**

Lew offered an addition to the minutes in the section on MBI meeting report back. Leslie made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Committee Member Search**

Kimberly and Leslie met with David Kramer on November 7 to give a back on the scope of the broadband committee, history of our work so far.

David's interest in being on the committee is to serve his community. David provided his background. Lew noted that David is also a member of the finance committee.

Kimberly moved that the Broadband Committee recommend the appointment of David Kramer to our committee. And that this recommendation be communicated to our Selectboard by our chair, Brian Hawthorne. Motion passed unanimously.

**WiredWest Update**

WiredWest is pursuing conversations with two of the thirteen respondents to the WiredWest request for information.

Five of the towns that have been through the readiness process recently met on their own to share information and strategize and discuss the terms of the participation agreement that MBI is crafting. Ashfield, Shutesbury, Wendell, New Salem, Rowe decided best next step is for each town to write a letter to Jay Ashe, Carolyn Kirke, and Peter Larkin citing the municipal modernization act and to make other requests.

General sense of these towns is that the MBI board has been sidelined. So focus needs to be on Baker admin and his key appointees.

Next WW board December 10 in Ashfield; then January 9 in Worthington.

Discussed process to communicate Plainfield’s concerns about processing, timing and lack of public input.

Next steps:

Leslie will review prior meeting minutes to identify unanswered questions

Leslie will submit bullet points for inclusion in a letter

Michal will draft the letter.

Kimberly will reach out to Bill Ennen to talk in person and then follow up with him in writing.

### **MBI Readiness Process**

Discussed where we are with the readiness process.

Lew will stop by town offices on Wednesday to talk with Treasurer Alan Kidston to ascertain status and timing of our “greenlight” letter from bond counsel.

Kimberly has a rough draft of a “business plan” to accompany the readiness forms and spreadsheet. She will polish it up and add to it if/as needed right before we submit the packet. If necessary she will call for a special committee meeting to review and discuss the packet.

Brian provided an overview of the survey results from our “mini-survey”. He reviewed the costs paid by survey respondents as follows:

People who purchase cellular pay an average of	\$82	for all services
People who purchase landline pay an average of	\$111	for all services
People who purchase landline pay an average of	\$52	for data services
People who purchase landline pay an average of	\$39	for voice services
People who purchase landline pay an average of	\$20	in other fees
People who purchase satellite pay an average of	\$99	for data services

People who purchase any of the above pay an avg of		\$210 for all services
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Discussed ideas for forming construction of the community survey. Leslie reported that WiredWest's Planning grant (Plainfield assigned its portion of the grant to WiredWest in 2015) for printing, postage and survey.

Lew provided an update on his review of a survey created by the Town of Worthington and how he used it as a model. Lew referred to the draft survey he circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. Consensus of the committee is that Lew's draft is great albeit a bit long. Agreed the preamble is good as a project status report, and we should not include the second page which is detailed construction cost estimates, MLP data and other things that are preliminary, subject to change and very likely will change.

Committee members offered additions and suggestions for modifying the format and wording of the specific survey questions. Agreed to see if we could find the 2012/2013 WiredWest market research report and questions.

Next steps. Sally and Michal and Lew will refine preamble. Brian and Lew will refine the survey questions.

**Other Business**

Reviewed the documents recently received.

**New Business**

The next Broadband Committee meeting will be Monday, November 28, at 7 p.m.

Kimberly made a motion to adjourn; Leslie seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes above as approved at the December 19, 2016 meeting.