

Plainfield Broadband Committee
Meeting Minutes December 19, 2016

Committee Members Present: Brian Hawthorne, Kimberly Longey, Lew Robbins, Michal Lumsden, David Kramer, Sally Silberberg

Absent: Leslie Rule

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at Town Hall.

Michal agreed to take minutes.

1. Review agenda
2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the Nov. 14 meeting were reviewed. Sally moved to accept the minutes as previously distributed. Lew seconded. Passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Nov. 28 meeting were reviewed. Kimberly moved to accept the minutes as previously distributed. Lew seconded. Passed unanimously.

The minutes of the Dec. 12 meeting were reviewed. David moved to accept the minutes as previously distributed. Sally seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. Wired West update

Kimberly said the WW meeting was cancelled on Saturday due to weather. Rescheduled for this Wednesday, Dec. 21 at HCOG in Northampton at 7 p.m. Neither Kimberly nor Leslie can attend. Executive committee members have talked to Bill Ennin about the rationale for the state-issued RFP; the governor was concerned about towns not moving through the readiness process quickly enough. Brian noted that the governor's statement contradicts the language of the RFP itself. It looks like Comcast and Charter will both come through with proposals for some towns; there do not seem to be proposals for other towns (including Plainfield). Some southern Berkshire towns have been working with a CT-based company, which MBI has disqualified. Those towns are looking at ditching MBI and joining together.

Crocker (based in Greenfield; original ISP for Leveritt network) is putting out a proposal to be not just an ISP, but also a network builder, as qualified by the state RFP. Someone from Crocker wrote to Kimberly to ask for a letter of support so they can stay alive in the state RFP process.

Brian said he's uncomfortable publicly supporting any single vendor, but is in support of MBI considering vendors that don't meet MBI's eligibility qualifications, without specifically

mentioning Crocker. Lew said the language could show that we want MBI to provide a second-tier group of criteria for companies, as there are a number of companies that do business in MA that should be considered. David said he doesn't like the phrase "second tier" because it implies lower quality. David moved that the Broadband Committee send a letter in response to Bill Stathis at Crocker and copy the Select Board; Sally seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Brian said he will draft the letter and noted that we should also clarify with town staff to make sure we're not duplicating efforts.

The next WW meeting is January 7 in Worthington. Kimberly will talk to Leslie to make sure one of them can attend.

4. MBI RFP

Brian said MBI issued an update for the RFP that mostly just extends some intermediate deadlines. MBI had a bidders' conference; Kimberly will ask Bill Ennin what potential bidders attended.

5. Plainfield RFP

Working with the MBI RFP, Brian drafted a Plainfield-specific RFP by taking out MBI specifics and operations/maintenance, only leaving in details related to design, construction, testing, and delivery. Brian did not include anything Plainfield's edge cases (including Windsor Pond); he suggests we address that after the fact. Brian would like to present to the selectboard at the first meeting in January so that we could send it out mid-January.

Kimberly said she imagines Select Board would want town counsel to weigh in on this RFP. She said the process could become a lot of work for someone, so we need to have those pieces thought out ahead of time. We could have a bidders' conference of our own. Brian said at the state level they always have a bidders conference. Any questions from potential bidders must be in writing and sent to a single place by a certain date; all answers to all questions come out AFTER the question deadline and are sent to everyone so all potential bidders are on the same page.

Brian said he did not make this a multi-town RFP. Kimberly said we should at least work with the towns we want to work with.

Brian will take the technology info from our readiness packet and put it into this draft RFP. He would like some feedback on eligibility requirements, which he initially devised by taking MBI's requirements and stepping them down slightly to account for a small-scale network like we'd have in Plainfield.

6. MBI Readiness Process

- a. Status of Green Light letter from Bond Counsel — GOT IT! Thank you for all your legwork, Lew!!
 - b. Readiness Submission Form — Kimberly worked like a bear on this over the weekend. Michal will copyedit on Thursday.
 - c. Sustainability Worksheet
 - d. Telecomm costs
7. Information received
- a. 2016-12-14 Cornell Robinson RE: Plainfield - Readiness Status Check-In
8. Other new business not reasonably anticipated as of date of posting.

Additions after meeting notice posted:

2016-12-09 Katie Stoico Last Mile 9C Clarification

2016-12-17 Kimberly Longey Locke Lord LLP -- Green Light Letter for Plainfield

2016-12-17 Kimberly Longey accounting procedures - potential problem with what Paula and Allan have recommended

2016-12-18 Kimberley final drafts - Plainfield readiness form and sustainability worksheet

2016-12-18 Brian Draft Town RFP

2016-12-18 Lew article on DirectTV

2016-12-18 Brian Multiple paths to Broadband

2016-12-19 Lew Task Assignments Spreadsheet

Discussion of whether BB committee should request \$\$ for the MLP for FY18 at Town Meeting.

2016-12-19 Bill Stathis MBI RFP Update and support request

New Business

The next Broadband Committee meeting will be January 9, at 7 p.m. The following is January 23.

Kimberly made a motion to adjourn; Sally seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes above as approved at the 1/9/2017 meeting.