

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
55 Main Road/Town Office Building
7:00 P.M.
MINUTES OF July 20 2015

Present: Mark Thibodeau, Jack Cavolick, Eileen Sauvageau

Others Present Paula Harrison, Dwight Harrison, David Greenburg; Wired West, Holleran Greenburger; Wired West, Robin Hartnett, Town Clerk Dianne Branaccio; The Recorder, Bill Stathis; Crocker Communications and Kevin Fox; Town Coordinator

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eileen Sauvageau at 7:00PM.

Appointments: Bill Stathis from Crocker Communications

Discussion on the broadband build out and the advantages and disadvantages of ownership.

Jack Cavolick asked what are the pros and cons of ownership of the fiber and electronics. Bill suggested that the town do their homework and to not take anything at face value. He also suggested getting several bids and weighing the options, he also sent the Board a copy of an e-mail between himself and Tom Wyatt/ Leyden broadband committee chair discussing questions that were asked and the answers that were given.

Jack Cavolick asked Bill Stathis under what conditions do you think Wire West would fail? Inaccurate assessment of their expenses due to lack of experience, a lower than required subscription rate. Wired West admits that their \$49.00 subscription rate is inaccurate and that the real cost would be more like \$84.00 per subscriber for their plan to work, and at \$49.00 per month they will be losing \$35.00.

Jack Cavolick asked David Greenburg why he is so adamant and why he supports Wired West so strongly when there are argument from the other side that it will not work. David Greenburg feels very strongly that we should be part of a regional network and doesn't feel that the town of Colrain can afford to do this without one. Mark Thibodeau stated that we do not have the numbers to support this and that is why we have to look at this from different points of view and go out and get the bids.

Eileen Sauvageau questioned why hasn't Wired West drawn off of the expertise of local providers. David Greenburg suggested that Wired West feels that if they were to partner with Crocker there would be no chance they would be able to pay off the town debt, because Crocker is not a nonprofit company.

Eileen Sauvageau asked what other states are doing to put in fiber optics. David Greenburg stated that there really is no comparison due to the fact that our town is so sparsely populated.

Eileen Sauvageau also asked if Crocker was interested in being connected with Wired West. Bill Stathis stated that they were very much interested but they were rebuffed at every attempt. David Greenburg stated the reason was because Wires West would like to repay the towns and would not be able to if any for profit company was involved.

Eileen Sauvageau suggested that the Board should meet with other town boards to see what they are doing. The rest of the Board agreed.

Kevin Fox stated that-MBI has hired a consult to review the business plan. MBI will be sending out the results of their review to every select board.

Robin Hartnett asked Bill Strathis from Crocker if the fee for home and business would be the same or different. Bill Stathis stated that fees would be the same if it was a home based business.

Paula Harrison questioned if the funds that the town has available to use were subject to a deadline? Bill Stathis heard Eric Nakajema say that it could be on a case by case basis. The absolute deadline is the four years that the state stipulates, but there is precedence that if it doesn't get used they will find a way to use it, or get an extension.

Paula Harrison asked "Is it possible to have broadband up and running in the next three years?" Bill Strathis suggested the fastest way to get it done is by accepting the MBI design, the MBI build and telling MBI we want to get started right away.

Eileen Sauvageau asked Bill Strathis if Crocker Communications has their own bucket trucks and if they will be doing their own repairs. Bill States that if Crocker is unable to fix any problem they sub contract Holyoke Gas and Electric.

MBI Grant – Application

Kevin Fox prepared a draft of the MBI planning grant application, for the Boards review, it includes legal and financial assistance and assistance evaluating in potential provider proposal.

MOVED; Mark Thibodeau voted to accept Jack Cavolick seconded. Voted unanimously.

Accepting the Following resignations and Appointments: The Board was asked to accept the following resignations and reappointments.

David Greenberg is requesting that the Board accept his resignation as the Wired West Delegate and is requesting to be appointed as Alternate Delegate.

Holleran Greenburger is requesting the Board accept his resignation as Wired West Alternate Delegate and is requesting to be appointed as Wired West Delegate.

MOVED: Jack Cavolick Moved to accept the resignations and reappointments, Mark Thibodeau seconded. Voted unanimously.

The subject of Wired West Soliciting at the Town landfill was brought to the attention of the Board. It was the understanding of Kevin Fox that Wired West was given permission to set up a table at the landfill for one Saturday in July to inform the public on Wired Wests intentions. After discussion it was decided that they would no longer set up at the landfill until they could provide the public with accurate information.

Adopt Designer Selection Procedures

Massachusetts general law chapter 7 C requires the town to adopt designer selection procedures when you are going to procure a designer for a public facility.

MOVED: Mark Thibodeau Moved to accept the Design Selection Procedure Jack Cavolick seconded. Voted unanimously.

Select Meeting Date For Village Center Redesign Information Session

Alan Nafis of Weston and Sampson Engineering thought it would be a good idea for the Town to host a public meeting. He can do it as soon as July 29 & 30 or the first two Thursdays in August. The Board agreed to have the meeting on August 13, 2015. The Board also thought it would be a good idea to have the meeting at the Colrain Elementary School.

Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance

The Mass DOT has submitted a request for the Board to sign and return.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau Moved to sign the MA DOT sub - recipient Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance form. Jack Cavolick seconded. Voted unanimously.

Community Compact Application

Kevin will send it out.

Breezeway Farm Agreement Contract for Services

Breezeway Farm has already been awarded the contract. The contract is ready to be signed, All Board members signed.

MOVED: Eileen Sauvageau Moved to close the meeting Mark Thibodeau seconded. Voted unanimously.

DOCUMENTS

Designer Selection Procedure

MSI Application Form for Broadcast Planning Assistance Grant

Community Compact Grant

2013 CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant Administration Services Grant