



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
March 24, 2015

Attendance: Andy Montanaro, Bill Levakis, Adam Dolby and Cara Letendre – Secretary
Jim Drawe – Wired West Representative, Glen Cardinale – Wired West Representative

Open Meeting:

7:15 p.m. meeting opened, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Wired West Presentation
 - a. Mr. Dolby presented a Power Point Presentation on the subject. See attached.
2. Questions & Answers:
 - a. If the electricity goes out will Broadband still work?
 - i. Yes, there will be a back-up of 24 usage hours.
 - b. Customer service offered?
 - i. Wired West will know before you do that your service is out and we will send someone out to fix it.
 - c. T.V. Packages offered?
 - i. Wired West will be doing a survey to determine which channels to offer. Currently negotiating with New England Sports to stream games. Many people may end up not choosing a T.V. package and stream shows over the internet instead.
 - ii. T.V. pricing?
 1. There will not be any introductory offers. Not sure on price yet.
 - d. Is there a data cap?
 - i. No.
 - e. Tax Increase?
 - i. Worst case scenarios: First two years no increase, in 2018 increase of \$106.00 per/family per/year, in 2019 increase of \$113.00 per/family per/year, in 2020 increase of \$118.26 per/family per/year, in 2021 increase of \$175.14 per/family per/year. With 40% of town signed up, the co-op will most likely be self-sustaining by year 6 and will start to generate revenue back into the town's general fund. Each town will have a choice as to how long they want to borrow for.
 - f. Who owns the infrastructure?
 - i. The town does. The Municipal Light Board rep will sit on the board.
 - g. What if there is damage to the lines?
 - i. Wired West carries insurance for this reason. Operate as a business and the State mandates they maintain a capital reserve balance to make

repairs. They will also use this account to update electronics every 7 years and keep technology up-to-date.

- h.** Why not just use wireless?
 - i.** Wireless is good for mobility. But radio signals get weaker as go farther from source. Has the capacity of 20-30 mbps with certain amount of customers and can't go much beyond that. Fiber can't deteriorate. What will improve are the electronics which we will be updating on a regular basis.
- i.** Why should we sign up now?
 - i.** Need to get 40% signed up as a town to move forward. If you sign up later it will cost more.
- j.** Phone wiring:
 - i.** Same wiring as have now. Can plug your router in for wireless access.
- k.** Why spend money on this when there are other needs in town?
 - i.** This has opportunity to be self-sustaining and possibly earn some money for the town.
 - ii.** Individual addresses on boxes at each house will give exact location for 911 calls.
 - iii.** Plan to dedicate a strand of fiber to mount transmitters to fill in radio holes that currently exist. Will increase communication for emergency responders/police.
 - iv.** Schools are increasing dependency on internet for books, assignments, etc. Our children would be at a disadvantage without Broadband
 - v.** Telemedicine technology enabling elderly to live at home longer.

9:30 Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

William Levakis

Andy Montanaro

Adam Dolby

