

Town of Wilbraham

240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

Broadband Advisory Committee
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BROADBAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019 SELECTMAN'S RM.
7:00 PM at TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: R. Tourville, B. Williams, T. Newton, T. Colapietro, C. Goonan, B. Russell(selectman)

New Business J. Christensen presentation ([Video of presentation](#))

J. Christensen presents plan moving forward. A teleconference with Jeff Christensen. Details discussed about the project. Next step suggested to establish the infrastructure for broadband as a resolution. Second step to design a strategy through the broad band committee.

Selectman Russell concern about misinformation regarding broadband. How to measure the value of this infrastructure for the community. J. Christensen suggests a survey to get community feedback. Increase community engagement as part of the plan.

Selectman Russell referencing the grid when does the town need to start spending money. J. Christensen outlines where town will need to spend money. A conventional feasibility study costs about \$100,000.00. Does not provide a path forward. Spend money on legal issues and legal authority. Legal will look at MLP and state regulations as a function of town by laws and state regulations.

RFP for design and construction will be next will give costs for design and construction. This will start the decision of go or no go on the project. Action Plan costs in the range of \$30-50,000.00. Engagement of community like yard signs and community education is part of the plan. Planning will take about 6-9 months to process. Needs to be under the control of the public not private.

R. Tourville asks if the strategy is free. J. Christensen reports that part is a free service. R. Russell reports that legal will be done by town.

R. Tourville asked a question about cost \$200/hour what will it cover-J.

Christensen : everything else that needs to be done certain entry points for the

project. This will be billed by the hour in his proposal.

R. Tourville asked what will be needed as to funds to be asked at town meeting? J. Christensen replied that is a budget that he at this point can not provide.

R. Tourville asked in minute 22.12 of presentation video regarding the timeline for project (see link for that discussion).

R. Tourville asked what will the feasibility study cover. J. Christensen reports he could have those numbers firm by Oct. for the special town meeting but definitely below \$50,000 possible below \$30,000.

D. Schleidt added that the cost for a traditional feasibility study is 100k.

J. Christensen said the town would supply cash flow that would get paid back by the project.

Additional questions asked by Chair:

What role does the ISP play? PON: the equipment will be owned by the ISP, electronics inside and outside plant will be run by network operator. Who owns the equipment? the ISP will own equipment as reported by D. Schleidt. Town will own the fiber in this system. Operator runs the equipment. The ISP does not bring much just an ISP address connecting with MBI. Town needs to lay out the cost of the infrastructure.

Selectman R. Russell requested J. Christensen to send video clips to share with the town select board. Plan for the town is to start with the strategy.

End of presentation with J. Christensen at 8:10pm.

Continued discussion with guests in the room.

T. Newton suggests to Board to research more options. T. Colapeitro concerns with active versus passive we want to make sure its universal and that the architecture is scalable.

Group discussion on broadband strategy. No action made by committee.

See the link [Video of 6/20/19 presentation with J. Christensen](#)

II. Citizen's Open Forum

This presentation was an open forum in which guests were able to ask questions and comment on proposals. See the link for the entire question and answer [Video of 6/20/19 presentation of J. Christensen](#)

Having no further business, C. Goonan motions to adjourn, T. Colapietro seconds to adjourn by unanimous consent at 9:00pm The Committee will reconvene in on 7/2/19.

Submitted:

Christine Goonan – Comm Member

Approved as to form and content:

Christine Goonan – Committee Member

Date :6/20/19

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