



Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting: September 22, 2014

Committee members present:

Howard Knickerbocker
Joe Kearns
Steve Harris

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 2:20 pm.

Approved minutes of 6/28/14 as read.

Discussed overhead projector for auditorium:

- Agreed to present proposed purchase of projector, screen, and audio and associated equipment to Selectboard for approval.
- Discussed multiple uses for system including town meetings, police training, presentations, movies, and more to be discovered.
- Kurt Zinnack will make final review of proposed purchases.

Discussed the need to hire a town electrician:

- Would obviate the need for costly engineering studies for various projects such as burying the electrical line to the town hall.
- Would make it much easier to proceed with other projects including installing the overhead projector and audio system.

Emergency communications:

- Joe to work with Chester Fire Department to conduct radio checks from multiple Middlefield locations to Hampshire County Repeater on the Chester Fire Tower.
- Steve to provide Howard with a list of test locations.

Agreed to table alternate phone service, but will revisit should circumstances change.

Discussed possibility of bringing broadband service to town garage:

- Difficult as there are no Verizon DSL slots available.
- Will explore possibility of providing service via firehouse fiber, though likely to be expensive.

Installation of cell phone boost technology in town hall put on hold, since considered too expensive by Selectboard. Will revisit should greater demand arise.

Discussed possibility of installing two public computers in auditorium.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.