



Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting: July 28, 2015

Committee members present:

Joe Kearns
Howard Knickerbocker
Steve Harris

Others attending included:

Members of Worthington FINCOM
Members of Worthington Selectboard
MBI Director Eric Nakajima
WW Vice-Chair & Treasurer Jim Drawe

Minutes:

Meeting at Worthington Town Hall called to order at 7:30 pm.

Eric Nakajima reported on MBI progress and plans:

- The governor has committed \$19M in broadband funds for FY 2016.
- Towns have until June 30, 2016 to commit to a broadband project.
- Coordinating the pole survey with utilities.
- Also coordinating fiber make-ready work.
- Will contract with towns and regional organizations like WW.
- There was little mention of alternate technologies.
- Extremely reluctant to allocate a share of the \$18M in professional services to towns that would have another party, such as Axia, design and engineer their fiber infrastructure – said they want a consistent build and construction to minimize overhead.
- Urged towns to apply for \$5K planning assistance grants.
- Helping some towns beyond \$5K, such as Royalston and Middlefield.
- MBI hasn't evaluated the WW Business Plan at this time but stated they would.

Worthington had their Planning Grant application approved. They will use \$3K of the funds to research bond financing.

Committee members approved the *Middlefield Interim Last Mile Broadband Report* as read.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.