



Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting: August 12, 2015

Committee members present:

Joe Kearns
Steve Harris

Others attending included:

Members of Worthington FINCOM
Members of Worthington Selectboard
Stephen Boulder, telecom sales & Jim Haas, engineer, Holyoke Gas & Electric

Minutes:

Meeting at Worthington town hall called to order at 11 am.

Jim Haas did most of the explaining:

- They have been doing fiber optics since 1997.
- They serve 300 businesses in Chicopee & Holyoke.
- Involved in Leverett design & make ready.
- MBI has to do make ready this time around.
- MBI has asked if they will be PM (operator).
- GPON 30 to 40 percent cheaper than Active Ethernet.
- Either technology can deliver all the bandwidth you could possibly need.
- WW argument that their Gb is better than another system's Gb is meaningless.
- Any constraint in pipeline would be in the middle mile.
- Have to get away from the discussion of bandwidth. Speed not relevant from point of view of utility.
- Has been serving as business ISP with single-shift support.
- Now looking into serving last mile households by outsourcing 24/7 support to Maine phone service provider.
- WW model doesn't make sense:
 - Easy to say that you can do everything when you haven't done it.
 - Very small expertise pool in the area for communications technology.

Meeting adjourned at 12 pm.