

[A transcript of oral testimony to the Middlefield Selectboard on 27 Feb 2017]

I wish to correct a statement that Selectman Denis Basak provided as oral testimony at the recent Worthington MBI meeting. The town has not decided that it prefers wireless and that it would not fund fiber. At the ATM two years ago I requested that the town put off for a year the WiredWest bonding proposal then put forward by Noreen, Judy and others. The town unanimously accepted my reasoning regarding WiredWest. My fears were a year later substantiated by MBI action disqualifying the co-op for any state monies and prohibiting the towns from participating.

The town has still not decided if they prefer a fiber based system and they should have the opportunity to make their preference known. The Selectboard has been remiss by their inaction in this regard now that viable options are available. I find statements that Middlefield can't or won't fund fiber as a modern invention and smoke screen to justify and protect the present wireless activities. I suggest the board investigate the latest fiber overtures from Whip City and for once consider the silent majority of town's folk.

(Deliver DVDs to the Selectboard)

These DVDs contain a 100 page PDF of the written wireless documentary evidence that I presented to this board. You will find my statements that wireless will not now and will never deliver 25/3 minimum speed to all customers, that a standalone Middlefield wireless system is not financially viable and many more comments and observations that are substantiated by calculation, data and referenced evidence. To my knowledge none of this has been rebutted by the wireless proponents by written testimony to this board.

Finally I am dis-heartened that this and previous boards did not support the citizens of this town who spent years crafting a communication's tower by-law and approving same by over whelming majority vote. By allowing this by-law to be savaged for reasons of expediency and legal tricksterism leaves the town gasping. The building inspector should have been told he would be immediately discharged or injunctive relief sought if a tower permit was issued.

I will present a citizen's initiative to correct this glaring hole in the zoning by-laws since it appears the Selectboard is unable or unwilling to protect the town from itself – and just do the right thing. Shades of Harry Pease Road.

Thank you,
Howard Knickerbocker
Middlefield