



Town of Middlefield
MBI Committee Meeting
Middlefield Town Hall
May 15, 2018

Members present: Chair Brent Lebeau, Maureen Sullivan, and Jay Swift

Attendees: Montgomery Selectman Dan Jacques, Joe Kearns and Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Meeting came to order at 6:15

Montgomery: The Montgomery Selectboard signed an agreement with Comcast last fall and is hoping to be connected by the end of 2018. The majority prefers Broadband to the home but couldn't get a 2/3rd at two separate meetings. KP Law checked out the agreement before it was signed; MBI was available for consultation. Legal fees less than \$3,000 were paid out of the MBI planning grant. Comcast refused a request to have a five year review. MBI coming forward with extra money to pay out expenses resulted in no out of pocket expenses for Montgomery. Huntington requested the same from MBI for their buildout, but didn't receive as much. Both Middlefield and Worthington will have to pay out of pocket to bridge the gap with Comcast. Dan will provide Chair Julie Ruzala of the Montgomery Broadband Committee with Middlefield's contact information.

Worthington: Worthington voted Comcast in. There could be a benefit to Middlefield if we join up with Worthington. **Note:** If Comcast builds out, it should come from here, and not from the other towns. Their engineers will look at the layout, but we can propose that they use this as a central node. People should see what prices would be in the long run. Mt Washington is very rugged. Not a lot of money there.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 30 minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Brent will email the converted minutes.

Infrastructure: Discussion of Mt Washington and Alford's buildout ensued. WI Valley is still worth considering. Matrix is out.

Comcast call: On May 10th, Peter Larkin, Brent, Eileen and Alicia from Comcast had a telephone conference.

1) **Validate the make ready costs.** There is no risk to the town associated with make-ready costs as long as there are 96% homes accessible. Before you do the engineering you need to sign a contract.

2) **Pricing:** The pricing available on a spreadsheet has not been sent. Basic broadband was quoted at \$60 a month. Maureen will bring her friend's bill from Comcast to the next meeting to figure out individual costs.

3) **Tax calculations:** Peter Larkin suggested talking to the financial guy from town. Brent will figure out the cost to taxpayers from his tax tool.

Peter Larkin stated that the total cost to the town if Middlefield joins Comcast is \$231 K. Pressure was felt to close this out. The Committee is moving forward but not at the expense of the wellbeing of the town.

Spreadsheet: The committee reviewed the tax-tool spreadsheet
Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux