



**Town of Middlefield
MBI Committee Meeting
Middlefield Town Hall
September 11, 2018**

Members present: Maureen Sullivan, and Jay Swift

Regrets: Chair Brent Lebeau,

Attendee: Joe Kearns

Meeting came to order at 6:00

WG&E: Jay spoke with Mike Lee at WG&E. Jay wanted confirmation that a survey would be done to determine our take rate. A conversation with John Leary next week will iron out those details and find out which towns have signed up. Lee stated that they're mostly at 70% take rate with all the Hilltowns that they work with. The subscriber costs including debt averaged under a hundred a month, with one town running over.

Wired West: Jay, Maureen and Joe attended a Wired West meeting last week. Maureen is waiting for a reply from an email to Kimberly Longey of Plainfield. Joe feels that WG&E would prefer to work with just one company. If Wired West was chosen, the Town would have to approve a warrant for \$1,000 for dues.

Presentation: Three columns will be used to compare Whip City and Comcast. This will include a base fee, debt service and total fee for both options. Discussion ensued on how to show the differences of both options, either by asterisk or footnotes. Jay will look up the costs based on 75 megabits. The debt service for WG&E will be based on borrowing ten one year notes, and one 5 year note and ten years for Comcast. Based on borrowing \$100,000 per year, the amount for WG&E would be \$49 monthly debt service with an approx. \$48.85 base fee for services. This amount will be paid by subscribers only at a 60% take-rate. The total cost of Comcast may be \$101 monthly. Residents will pay \$10 on average based on 60% take rate.

Ownership: WG&E promises Net Neutrality, Comcast will have potential increases in costs of streaming and increased buffering. We have no power to make decisions over the future of our connectedness with Comcast. Ownership gives us the flexibility to make changes and be adaptable.

Education: Discussion on how to educate people ensued. The Senior Center and Disposal area were considered important sites.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne C. Lemieux

