



# Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting June 22, 2017

## Committee members present:

Leanne Every  
Joe Kearns  
Steve Harris

## Others present:

David Dinicola  
Judith Hoag

## Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Held hybrid broadband review:

- Thanks to our multi-town campaign, last mile towns are now assured access to their entire broadband grants.
- Since Middlefield's broadband allocation is \$580K, the current Hybrid Broadband Project, at an estimated cost of \$483K, would entail no cost to Middlefield taxpayers.
- Estimates include allowances for insurance, breakages, and other contingencies.
- The Sustainability Analysis in our budget indicates a cash break even for broadband service at \$47 per household per month at a 65% take rate (159 households); \$67 per household per month when you include depreciation costs.
- Fred Goldstein's estimates for Hawley indicate that construction of their wireless broadband network would require only \$312K of their \$520K broadband grant. However, they have only an estimated 80 potential subscribers among whom to allocate ongoing operating costs, making it difficult to sustain their network.
- At approximately double the number of potential subscribers, Middlefield shouldn't have this issue. But if Hawley and Middlefield could apply any last mile grant funds not expended during initial construction to capital depreciation, this would be a great help during the first five years as our towns ramp up to our full complement of subscribers
- There is still no word from the MBI as to whether they are having any success in renewing their fire tower access agreement with DCR. This would simplify our townwide deployment, saving an estimated \$52K in constructions costs. It would benefit other towns as well.

Discussed the town's Wireless Communications Facilities bylaw:

- Both the Building Commissioner and town counsel have stated in writing that the town currently has the right to erect a communications tower at the transfer station.
- We will give to the Planning Board our suggested amendment to the Wireless Communications Facilities bylaw. It would exempt facilities owned by the Town or its Departments that are erected on town properties for the purpose of providing wireless broadband service.

Discussed the need to improve cell phone reception inside the town hall. The WilsonPro cell phone booster kit will work on all phones with all carriers. Steve and Joe will install.

Called attention to the lack of progress in rerouting fiber, phone, and electrical service to the town hall via the new pole and underground conduit.

Approved minutes of April 5 & April 25 as read.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.