

SELECTBOARD MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2016

Meeting opened at 5:30pm

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; David DiNicola; Robert Costa
Duane Pease, Town Administrator; Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent

Interview conducted with Anthony DiSanti for the highway position (see attached resume). He was asked the same questions as the previous applicants. Has 35 years experience, can operate any equipment, has current CDL license and Class A Hoister license. Has plowed snow and operated a grader. He retired early and is now looking for a job as he claims to be bored just "hanging around". He is not looking for full-time work but would be willing to work when he is needed. Board thanked him for his interest and advised he would be notified of the Boards decision.

Fred Goldstein of Interisle Consulting Group addressed the Board regarding his recommendations for high speed internet for the Town. He feels either wireless or a hybrid wireless/fiber system would be best for the Town. He had done a preliminary study for Mass Broadband previously and more recently conduct a more thorough study on a wireless system. Wireless has become the norm for rural American as it is one third the cost of fiber. There are limitations and trees and hills are a hindrance and require more antennas and towers. Maximum speed is 25mb and with a goal of reaching everyone he feels 20mg can be delivered to most but some will only receive 10mg. The operating expense of wireless is reasonable and an outside firm could be hired to run the system

With a hybrid system the cost fiber cost is about \$40,000/mile and could be built out in increments. Build out time would be 3 years. Wireless build out is 7-8 months, however, there is no TV with the wireless system.

There is 5 year depreciation on the electronics and a 30 year on the infrastructure. This is built into his proposal for the Town. The main tower would be at the Transfer Station and between 80-120', this would be a monopole with space available for police, fire, highway and possibly cell phone providers. Other towers would be located in various spots in Town; most would be telephone poles with the exception of a tower on Alderman Road. These towers would be built right off existing road but if a landowner offered a better spot, it would be used.

Sherri Venditti questioned him on his company's involvement with other than wireless and Fred advised his group is multifaceted. They were involved in writing the grant for MBI. The MBI study he did on Middlefield showed a hybrid system would work but he is recommending a wireless system for its cost effectiveness and speed of getting up to operation.

Maureen Sullivan asked what effect future building would have. Fred said he had the GPS location of every house in town when he designed the system and there may have to be some tweaking for any new homes built so they could receive the signal. Fred said the receiving antennas would be located about 7 meters above the ground.

There was further discussion regarding operating costs which are pretty close to the cost of fiber. A Capital Fund should be set up to cover costs of upgrading and future maintenance of the system.

The Board thanked Fred for his presentation and knowledge.

Last item discussed was the Town Clerk. Alan said Suzanne needs some help and was looking for volunteers or someone interested in becoming her assistant. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Bob motioned to adjourn, Alan 2nd; vote 3-0 and meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease
Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, chair

David DiNicola

Robert Costa