

TOWN OF MARLBORO
SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, January 25, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Present were select board members Andy Reichsman, Chair, Tyler Gibbons and Pieter Van Loon. Also present were Clay Purvis, Connectivity Development Manager of the Department of Public Service, Sunni Eriksen, Connectivity Coordinator of the Department of Public Service, Laura Sabilia, Vermont State Representative, Becca Balint, Vermont State Senator, and Emily Long, Vermont State Representative.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 5:08.

IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES TO AGENDA:

No changes were made to the agenda.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS:

No member of the public was present during the unscheduled open public comment period.

Clay Purvis described the Department of Public Service's new division, the Division for Telecommunications and Connectivity, which has the purpose of promoting and facilitating state-wide expansion of broadband service. There is a state goal to bring statewide universal broadband access of 100/100 Mbps by the end of 2024.

There was discussion of VTEL's service in Marlboro.

Connect America is a federal program that gives money to service providers to help with difficult locations. \$50 million was awarded to FairPoint over 6 years to improve DSL access and service. However, Clay Purvis stated that DSL, as a technology, cannot provide 100/100 Mbps, and thus eventually will be insufficient.

Cable connectivity was discussed. Duncan Cable serves Wilmington; Comcast serves Brattleboro. It was recommended that Marlboro be in touch with these cable companies with regards to possible cable service in Marlboro, and Clay Purvis offered to help initiate that conversation. With Cable, it is possible to reach the 100/100 Mbps in the future (with upgrades from the cable companies).

Fiber Optic was discussed; Clay Purvis stated that this technology is very fast, but is very expensive to set up, and thus a difficult option at the moment.

The Small Cell Deployment Project was discussed. This project puts small antennas on telephone poles (an example is along Rt. 9) to help with cell service coverage. 911 service is available to everyone through this service.

Clay Purvis strongly recommended that Marlboro have an active Connectivity Committee to work towards better internet connectivity in Marlboro.

OLD BUSINESS:

The board voted (Gibbons/van Loon; Andy Reichsman recused himself) to set the hourly wage for auditors in Marlboro to \$17. The new rate will take effect after Town Meeting on March 2nd.

The board voted (Reichsman/Gibbons) to set the hourly wage for Marcia Hamilton, Select Board Assistant, to \$17. The new rate will take effect after Town Meeting on March 2nd.

The Select Board signed the AOT Request for Reimbursement for \$31,500 for a Structures Grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to attend to.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND MAIL:

There were no information items or mail.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Gibbons, Select Board Member