

**Town of Fairhaven  
Broadband Study Committee  
March 26, 2019  
East Room**

**Present:** Chaiperson, Sean Powers, Brad Perkins, John Seed, Bob Espindola, Jay Simmons and John Methia

**Absent:** John Seed

Derek Frates, Director of Cable Access was also in attendance.

Mr. Powers called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

Minutes from February 26, 2019: Jay Simmons made a motion to approve and was seconded by Bob Espindola. Motion passed unanimously.

**Update on Town's Municipal Building Fiber Project:**

Bryan Hopkins, President of ComTract Corporation was present with a presentation on the Town's Municipal Building Fiber Project. (See attached Presentation).

Mr. Hopkins gave an overview of cellular side of things, fiber at home network. He spoke about utility company's full network service out is a big investment.

He stated that the cost for full out construction rate, fully engineered to a home (full on RFP) would be anywhere from \$60,000-\$100,000. He said they could review RFP's that were out there now in Western, MA.

"Cellular SG" – Cellular Small Cells – discussion on these cellular small cells on telephone poles.

He stated with municipal network, the town has the rights to the conduits and the asset is owned by the Town.

He said the Town of Fairhaven is about 3 weeks away from full usage of what's being installed currently.

The Committee discussed the Fairhaven Network, and was told the highest utilization would be the School Department.

Mr. Simmons asked if any what was the weak link? Mr. Hopkins said that it was still dependant on another carrier outside of Fairhaven but it is physically separate fibers per department and is secured.

The current loop is already funded.

Currently there are local utilities offering fiber to home. He said that competition was tough to get into the house.

Discussion on Open Cape (for internet only) network.

Discussion on wireless network – the small cells being most popular; data & devices are driving it.

DAS – cellular tied to a building, transmission through the building/out of the building. He said you'd have to think about 5g DAS for at home network.

Discussion on engineers to build and maintain it vs. the Town.

The rule of thumb being, take fiber as close to the consumer as you can.

Discussion on Quest in New Bedford, more advanced and connecting internet service for the City of New Bedford.

He presented slides of macro cells.

Mr. Espindola brought up the regional system of working with SRPEDD who is studying a lot of this and has for the last ten years.

Mr. Hopkins said that this study committee is really just scratching the service as they just start out to learn what's out there.

See attached for further material on what was discussed.

#### **Discuss findings regarding survey of other communities in Broadband**

Mr. Espindola said he and Sean Powers have reached out to a few communities and Mr. Powers was keeping a spreadsheet to share with the group at a later meeting.

Mr. Espindola suggested receiving any materials that needed to be looked/read over at meetings prior to the meetings, so members could come prepared with some knowledge and questions.

Quick discussion about the Open Meeting Law, and not to reply all with the information – but certainly information could be shared among email. Discussion that any materials provided at a meeting will be noted on the minutes and added as part of the record when uploaded to the website or with Town Clerk.

#### **RFP Process:**

Sean Powers has gotten some information that he will circulate to everyone.

Mr. Espindola stated he was meeting with SRPEDD this week and would share at the next meeting about regionalization or working with SRPEDD on this project.

In closing, Mr. Methia suggested that everyone keep everything at a basic level of understanding, keeping things in layman's terms for the viewer especially and the committee members to get a better understanding – because it is a lot of information.

Mr. Espindola stated he found basic broadband information on the FCC and he will circulate to members.

Next meeting was scheduled for April 23, 2019 at 7pm.

Jay Simmons made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by John Methia. The motion passed unanimously at 9:42pm.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella  
Recording Secretary

Documents reviewed & attached:

1. CommTech Presentation