

Montague Broadband Advisory Committees  
Monday, April 25, 2016 Montague Town Hall First Floor  
Attending: Kevin Hart, Lisa Enzer, Rob Steinberg

1. Minutes of 4/12/16 approved: (KH motion, RS 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF)

2. Changed order of mtg to allow conversation with Bill Stathis of Crocker Communications (KH motion/LE 2<sup>nd</sup>/AIF)

Bill Stathis presented his view of why MBI indicated Matrix was not capable of providing network operations, or being service provider for town. Described Crocker's history and current business functions. Crocker has 9 months of experience thus far for Town of Leverett, and can help Montague solve the issue of potential disqualification of Matrix, by becoming ISP and network operator once build-out is completed by Matrix. Crocker unable to capitalize funds of amount required to perform build out, while Matrix can leverage millions. Conversation finished with BS offering to connect directly with Elizabeth Copeland in pursuit of Crocker strengthening Montague's approach to getting a timely solution. BBC unable to reach out to Copeland's office at this time as we await decision by MBI on Matrix.

3. Response of Matrix to MBI's request for more information leaves Town still in the dark. No meeting scheduled yet for 'decision'. However, request for Public Records response for information to MBI netted a letter with details of budget for 1 year, and top 3 salaries. Expenses for projects in Western Mass communities were \$147,000 equaling less than 1% of the total budget. MBI also has pending lawsuits from GS4 and Axia pertaining to middle mile build. General agreement that MBI is squandering state funds and demonstrating incompetency in fulfilling its stated mission.

RS moved to put FIO into the record, LE 2<sup>nd</sup>/AiF (see at end of notes)

Update continued with public dissatisfaction of bureaucracy and lack of action by MBI for so long. Numerous letters sent to Rep. Kulik, Sen. Rosenberg, and a few to Linda Dunleavy noting frustration with process to get solution to un-served residents of town. Linda is director of FRCOG and MBI BoD; she reached out to Kevin Hart personally to learn more about the situation.

RS penned letter to Rep. Kulik clearly stating Montague's preferred vendor and citing recent Boston Globe article, and additional reports linked at end of these notes. RS will present letter to BoS for decision on whether BBC committee should proceed with current tack or stop engagement. (BoS meeting is to follow immediately at 7PM)

4. Prepared for upcoming Town Meeting and reviewed warrant article 7 for Special Town meeting requesting second of two votes to establish MLP. Projected MLP to be comprised of appointed members including BBC members, BoS member, Town Planner or Town Administrator to start. Reviewed warrant article 38 (no additional details) on establishing a study committee to research development of town wide BB. Conversation and recommendation that if passed by Town Meeting, new committee should report to MLP to prevent duplication issues.

KH will present article 7 on May 7, 2016 town Meeting.

CONNECTING THE COMMONWEALTH

**SENT BY EMAIL AND MAIL**

April 22, 2016

Mr. Robert S. Martin  
Mr. Robert Steinberg  
PO Box 152  
Hardwick, MA 01037

Dear Messrs. Martin and Steinberg,

On January 29, 2016, you submitted a public records request to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for information relating to the following:

1. *Operating budget for the MBI for the current year (fiscal year ending June 30, 2016) with sufficient detail of revenue, expenses, balance sheet and cash flow line items to get a basic understanding of the operating components. We're assuming this should readily exist from a board or legislative presentation;*
2. *Salaries for the top 3 executives/officials of the MBI; and*
3. *List of the largest 5 projects funded or committed for unserved or underserved towns and amounts funded by the MBI in the current fiscal year to-date.*

I previously responded to you via letter dated February 2, 2016 indicating that I was attempting to ascertain if we possessed any records responsive to your request.

Enclosed with this letter, please find a document responsive to your first request.

At the time of your request, there were no public records responsive to either of your second or third requests, and as you know, the public records law does not require a public entity to create documents in response to a request pursuant to G.L. c.66. However, I will use this letter to respond to what I understand to be the questions underlying those requests, even though MBI is not required to do so.

The salaries for the top 3 executives of the MBI at the time of your request are: Eric Nakajima, Executive Director at a salary of \$150,000 per annum; Elizabeth Copeland, Counsel to the MBI (current Interim Executive Director) at a salary of \$140,000 per annum; and the presently vacant position of Deputy Director of MBI at a salary of \$120,000 per annum.

- i. Royalston, Town of, The Completion of a Pilot Hybrid Project in the South Royalston Village, \$45,000.00
- ii. WiredWest Communications Cooperative Corporation, Wired West Last Mile Expenses, \$42,000.00
- iii. Alford, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- iv. Middlefield, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- v. Mount Washington, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- vi. New Marlborough, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- vii. Peru, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- viii. Petersham, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- ix. Princeton Broadband Municipal Light Plant, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- x. Royalston, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- xi. Worthington, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grants, \$5,000.00
- xii. Colrain, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grant: Round Two Funding, \$5,000.00
- xiii. Hawley Municipal Light Department, Broadband Planning Assistance Grant, \$5,000.00
- xiv. Warwick, Town of, Broadband Planning Assistance Grant, \$5,000.00

Sincerely,



Edmund Donnelly, Esq.

CC: Brian H. Noyes, Senior Communications Manager

	<b>2016</b>
	<b>FY16 Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	
State Bond Funding	15,557,816
Network Oversight Fees	560,137
Decommissioning Funding	42,741
Capital Refresh Funding	400,000
Dark Fiber	43,577
Investment Income	9,950
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>16,614,221</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Financial Assistance	3,515,000
Personnel	1,949,066
Professional Fees	3,312,800
Facility Support	195,638
Depreciation Expense	6,213,270
Other Direct Program Expenses	108,145
<b>Total Direct Program Expenses</b>	<b>15,293,920</b>
Shared Services	1,168,469
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16,462,389</b>
<b>Net Change to Fund Balance</b>	<b>151,832</b>
<b>Additional Information</b>	
Capital Expenditures	5,917,798

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2016/04/20/broadband-connections-still-lag-western-mass-harvard-researchers-say/uAxXCrPEp0lPC5dl9I33BO/story.html>

<https://backchannel.com/why-western-mass-doesn-t-have-the-internet-77922828048c#.ntra5cpie>

[https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2016/wiredwest\\_case\\_study](https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2016/wiredwest_case_study)

Ajourned: 6:55PM LE motion, RS 2<sup>nd</sup>/AiF