



Ashfield Municipal Lighting Plant Advisory Board

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 7:00 PM

Ashfield Town Hall, 412 Main Street, Ashfield MA 01330

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Municipal Lighting Plant Advisory Board was held at 7:00 PM in the Ashfield Town Hall, Lower Hall. There was one audio recorder at the meeting.

Members Present: David Kulp (DK), Chair, Carol Lebold (CL), Mark Graves (MG) and George Stephan (GS).

Members Absent: Tom Carter (TC).

Others Present: Todd Olanyk, Select Board Chair and Andy Smith Technology Committee.

Discussion/Decision Items:

- 1. Review of Info Packet:** DK reviewed the info packet (handed out on 8 February) to the new member who were unable to attend the past meeting. He also restated what the MLP Advisory Board function for the town of Ashfield and the Select Board.
- 2. Minutes from 8 February 2017:** Motion made to accept the minutes by GS & seconded by DK. Motion passed 2-0-2.
- 3. MBI Pole Survey:** DK presented the information received from MBI on the pole survey and the anticipated cost of make ready. Pole survey is now complete and the costs are expected to be higher than originally anticipated. There were a higher percentage of pole that need to be replaced.

DK explained this point Ashfield has three options moving forward to complete FTTH:

- 1- Continue with MBI assistance which involve continuing to wait for another plan yet to be created.
 - 2- Ashfield to issue RFPs so that the design & engineering (D&E) can be done.
 - 3- Ashfield to partner with companies and contract them to do the D&E and anything else beyond that if it makes sense for them do more.
- 4. Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E):** Given the above options DK recommended option three. He indicated that most other town support the same. Westfield G&E is one of those companies that approached Ashfield to partner with. They have also made the same offer recently at a public meeting that was attended by several town representatives. It is to Ashfield's advantage to proceed with WG&E as they are planning to do the work on a first come first serve basis.

DK explained that WG&E has done this already with other town and already have plenty experience with doing this sort of work. Furthermore they have contract firms that can step in to do the work for Ashfield. They also have the management experience to run and oversee this level of work.

WG&E will do; D&E. additional pole surveys, procurement, project management and pole licensing application.

Ashfield will own the equipment when FTTH goes live.

Service to be offered to consumers/Ashfield will be internet, phone, billing and operating the network.

Motion: MG moved that MLPAB recommend to the select board that Ashfield sign an inter-government agreement with WG&E to get the work started. DK 2nd. Approved unanimously (4-0-0).

5. Motion to Adjourn: MD made the motion, DK 2nd. Approved unanimously (4-0-0).

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting:

Upcoming Meetings: March 21, 2017 at 7PM

Document List:

1. MBI Pole Survey packet
2. Make Ready Estimates
3. Info Packet made available at the meeting on 8 February 2017