

			
<b>Florida, MA</b>	<b>Hawley, MA</b>	<b>Monroe, MA</b>	<b>Savoy, MA</b>

## Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place at the Hawley Town Office on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

### In Attendance:

Hawley: \*Hussain Hamdan, Lark Thwing  
 Florida: No representation  
 Monroe: \*Richard Olney-Jones  
 Savoy: \*Melanie Glynn  
 WiValley: Brian Foucher

---

### \*Voting Members

Note: there may have been other callers who did not identify themselves.

#### ➤ Quorum, Call to Order

A quorum was established, and the Meeting called to order at 4:40 pm.

- **Review and approve minutes from the April meeting** – not discussed.
- **Roles & responsibilities**

Hussain agreed to stay on as interim chair and agreed to by RO-J and MJ

#### ➤ **Brian's report**

Borden Mountain status:

- Access to Borden has been impacted by the storms.
- Will put up fencing by end of August. Will have generator installed and running by fall.
- All documents are signed and at the registry of deeds.

Homes connected:

- 96 Florida.
- 32 Monroe.
- 121 Hawley.

- 123 Savoy.
- 372 total,

286 customers after many lost to Starlink.

Phases and payments to date, future payments:

- Brian is working on completing the paperwork for physical asset handover to the FHMS towns. Target completion for report is end of July. Will be sent to MBI first then to the towns. May move into early August.
  - Brian will attend SB meetings to ensure a smooth transition. Review to the FHMS committee first, after MBI.
  - Savoy will own the two buildings but will grant public safety access.
  - Towns will insure the poles within their towns as originally agreed upon.
- Towns will need to sign off on Borden Mountain phase once it's reported to MBI how many customers are connected via CBRIS.
- The pole on Berkshire East will be owned by Berkshire East. Agreement is in the works.
- Potential additional language may be needed to address ownership of poles, MOU. Hussain expressed concerned to look further into this.
- MBI will still hold back 15% of the \$2.1M since actual performance is less than that in theoretical design.
- Enhancements to resolve performance issues must be approved by the state.
- **Future of FHMS project: wireless, fiber, and hybrid options. Consideration of infrastructure funding streams and how they may be leveraged toward future progress.**
  - WiValley and Hub66 are still collaborating and added that he believes that the timeframe for finalization is by the end of the month. The agreement to transfer MA customers must be approved by MBI and Otelco.
  - Still awaiting RFP/RFA. There will be 2 months to apply. MBI was targeting end of June and still not available.
  - Investment already in infrastructure in the 4 towns, the towns would like to utilize what is already in place and grow it.
  - Looking to use prebuilt harnesses for quicker and more reliable installation.
  - Dodge Corner concern for access to signal. AT&T has access into this area.
  - Access to the public safety tower being turned over to FCROG.

- Proposing trenching on gravel roads in Hawley. Concern from prior fiber run up East Hawley Road sifting ledge damaged. Also a run down 8A until hurricane Irene. Further discussion on areas within Hawley and how access may be provided in the future.
- Digital Equity meeting in Worcester
  - Digital Equity meeting seemed to indicate towns would be built out 100%. Percent of cost is still unknown.
- **Hawley Website for document retention**
  - It's understood that the website developer needs to bring the historical data back to the new website.
- **Other questions or topics not elsewhere anticipated.**
  - Question about posting agenda. Needs to go to each town for posting and member of the FHMS.
- **Next meeting date, back to regularly scheduled meetings?**

September 7 at 4:30 pm at the Hawley Town Hall.
- **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Melanie Glynn*