



Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place at the Hawley Town Office on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

In Attendance:

- Hawley: *Hussain Hamdan, Lark Thwing
- Florida: *Cindy Bosley (5:00), Joan Lewis (TA)
- Monroe: No representation
- Savoy: *Melanie Glynn, Sarah Satherthwaite
- WiValley: Brian Foucher

*Voting Members

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

➤ Quorum, Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:27 pm. Quorum established 5:00pm

➤ Review and approve minutes from the September meeting –

- Once the quorum was established, vote was taken to approve the September 7 meeting minutes. No discussion or questions MG/HH

➤ Report from on current project status.

Homes connected:

	Connected	Active
Florida	96	68
Hawley	121	102
Monroe	32	23
Savoy	126	91
Total	375	284

*Majority lost to Starlink

- Fencing is targeted for the end of October. Generator before November.
- Time has been used to train new tech.

- Discussion regarding new subscribers that could be reached now that Borden is active.
- Joan requested an overview from Brian so she can respond to questions from residents. He will stop by the Florida town hall next week.
- Discussion regarding the holdback funds of \$250K from MBI for lack of performance. Could this be used to sustain point-point until fiber is rolled out to all. Concerned about maintaining current subscribers as we move to fiber.
- **Future of FHMS project: wireless, fiber, and hybrid options. Consideration of funding streams and how they might be leveraged toward future projects.**
 - Calls with MBI are on hold until November.
 - Brian expects to announce the purchase of WiValley by a company with a large presence in Western Mass. Plans to provide hybrid system. Provided example of Florida to Hoosac Tunnel area could be served this way without running fiber all the way.
 - Brian expects to attend SB meetings over the next couple months to bring the towns up to speed.
- **Report on Digital Equity Program by MBI**
 - Lark and Melanie attended the rural digital equity meeting. 3 represented from FHMS town. 4 in total. The other was from Boston. Many questions were asked but not many answers.
 - Cost burden highest in the west.
 - Discussion regarding Digital Equity Plan. Florida is partnered with other towns. Monroe, Hawley and Savoy do not have one. BRPC is active with this initiative. Cindy encouraged us to investigate. A question whether future funding will depend on having one, but for most towns with fiber, it is how to prioritize funding. For FHMS, we need internet, period.
- **Status of member towns who are looking to contract**
 - Florida has signed a franchise agreement with Spectrum. The franchise agreement is for video only. Spectrum build out is via RDOF funding. Future funding cannot be used on RDOF locations
 - Savoy had a presentation by Spectrum last week. They have not signed.
- **Hawley Website for document retention**
 - Still awaiting the site to go live.
- **Other questions or topics not elsewhere anticipated.**
 - None
- **Next meeting date**

November 16, at 4:30 pm on zoom. Meeting will change to zoom only until the spring. All in agreement.
- **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, *Melanie Glynn*