

**Town of Becket**  
**Board of Selectmen's Working Meeting**  
**December 9, 2015**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall**  
**557 Main Street, Becket**

**Attendees:**

Board of Selectmen: Jeanne Pryor *Chairperson*; William Elovirta, *Vice Chairperson*;  
Angela Hilton, *Clerk*

Staff: Ed Gibson, *Town Administrator*; Beverly Gilbert, *Recording Secretary*

WiredWest: Jeremy Dunn, *Delegate*; Bob Gross, *Alternate Delegate*

**Call to Order**

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. She stated that the meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and Guidelines for the Becket Board of Selectmen Meetings.

Jeanne asked if anyone was recording the meeting. The Board of Selectmen was recording the meeting.

**Discussion to review and vote to sign letter to MBI re: Wired West Operating Agreement**

Jeanne distributed the Shutsbury Broadband Committee's comparison (one page) of co-operative (regional) model vs. private network models.

The BOS, Town Administrator and WiredWest Delegates discussed a draft letter to the Director of Massachusetts Broadband Institute ("MBI") in response to MBI's letter urging all towns to refrain from signing the WiredWest Operating Agreement on the basis that their consultant gave unfavorable reviews of WiredWest's business plan and financial model.


Further discussion ensued including the comparison of the background of WiredWest's and MBI's consulting firms, acknowledgement of the commitment and effort of WiredWest volunteers, Jeremy and Bob fielding questions about the possibility of WiredWest hiring employees in the future to run the network, suggestion that a legislator or another unbiased party mutually respected mediate talks between WiredWest and MBI to iron out differences relating to ownership vs. shared equipment and use of the Middle Mile in order to reach an agreement, and the strength of what WiredWest has designed.

Angie moved for the board to send a letter with discussed corrections to Mr. Nakajima of MBI requesting that MBI support a regional broadband network reflecting the Town of Becket's 2015 ATM and Election of which a copy of the votes relating to broadband are included. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Board will send a copy of the letter to State Senator Benjamin Downing, State Representative William "Smitty Pignatelli", Massachusetts Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, Governor Charlie Baker, WiredWest and WiredWest Member Towns Board of Selectmen.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Angie moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously. At 4:07 p.m., Jeanne adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beverly Gilbert, Secretary

  
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William Elovirta, *Vice Chairperson*

**Documents discussed at this meeting:**

Shutsbury Broadband Committee's comparison (one page) of co-operative (regional) model vs. private network models  
Selectmen's letter dated 12/09/2015 to Mr. Nakajima of MBI