

TOWN OF PRINCETON MA
Princeton Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 7th, 2016

AB members in attendance: John Shipman, Don Schoeny, Jimmy O'Coin, Wayne Adams, George Handy, Bill Lawton, Dave Cruise

BOS members in attendance: Stan Moss, Edie Morgan, Jon Fudeman, Town Administrator Nina Nazarian

Comcast guest speakers:

Dave Kowolenko, VP Engineering, Northeast Division

Alicia Matthews, Sr. Director of Government Affairs, Northeast Division

Tim Kelly, Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Greater Boston Region

Advisory Committee/BOS Agenda

- Comcast proposal for Princeton
- Board of Selectmen Business
- Advisory Committee Public Hearing for Town Warrant

Meeting started at 7:00 PM

STM Related Discussion

BOS announcement by Jon F, that the 9/13 Special Town Meeting will be held due to legal opinion, it could not be postponed on short notice.

Later in the meeting, BOS motioned and approved their intention to pass over Article 2, article to borrow \$4.8M. However, understood any resident in attendance at the meeting may make the motion as originally. BOS do plan to motion both Article 1 and 3 as posted for town vote.

Comcast presentation

- Comcast provided an overview of their company history, size, product lines for residential and business, and number of franchises
- Comcast further detailed their New England division and MA division for size of staff and number of franchises. MA is made up of 5 regions with 241 franchise. A franchise is a specific contract per the MA Dept of Telecommunications and Cable, to deliver services within a specific town/city. There are 3900 employees in MA.
- Key points of Princeton Proposal
 - o 100% coverage, both residential and business
 - o Free hookup
 - o Part of Greater Boston region; what services are offered in Boston will simultaneously be offered in Princeton
 - o Princeton will be tied into the Sterling head-end
 - o Technology will be a Hybrid Fiber Coax cable plant running DOCSIS. Not determined about 3.1 vs 3.0. Specifics of the HFC cable plant would be determined on a detailed engineering design done by Comcast at their expense. This would also dictate how close fiber is brought to a specific residence as well as what the bandwidth going in/out of Princeton to

- Sterling.
- Princeton, MBI, and Comcast would need to have an agreement on MBI funds and how they would be applied to the franchise agreement
 - All 4 product lines/services would be available to subscribers: internet, voice, video, and home (security, smart home,...)
 - Range of speeds for residential will be 10Mbps download to 2Gbps; for business upto 100G. Residential speeds are asymmetrical, where upload is a slower speed with exception to the 2GPS which is symmetrical. All business speeds are symmetrical.
 - Prices of the services can be referenced from the Comcast Xfinity website for the Sterling community.
 - There is a special program called Internet Essentials for economic disadvantaged children that provides a low-cost package for basic internet connectivity
 - Comcast detailed their operations and maintenance capabilities including the network operations center and national team focused on cybersecurity
 - For Princeton to move forward with Comcast, the DTC cable franchise process would need to be followed. No broadband work would take place until a cable franchise is awarded, as well as all make ready work is completed. Once these two items are satisfied, the build-out would take 8-12 months, with rolling light-ups starting at 6 months. Assuming a mid-year 2017 make ready completion, by mid-2018 the entire town could be connected
 - As part of a franchise agreement, key considerations could be negotiated for aerial lateral distances, public/private way conduit/non-conduit work, special considerations beyond Internet Essentials for other town demographics demonstrating need
- The formal presentation was followed by questions from the board of selectmen, advisory committee, and residents in attendance. They ranged from prices, timetables, DTC process and length of time to complete, use of MBI funds, technology, cable plant, other government funds and grants, costs to hookup pre-build and post-build, data cap program, renewing subscriber price points and sales tactics, town recourse if services not satisfactory, depth and breadth of staff to build-out towns in parallel, advertised speed vs realized speed, franchise renewal.

BOS next steps with Comcast

BOS motioned and approved to move forward with the DTC process and call for franchise interest, intent to further Comcast discussions, and \$10K funds for legal counsel cable franchise expertise.

Meeting recessed at 9:00PM

AC reconvened at 9:20 to start Public Hearing

Resident expressed concern that the Article 2 vote could still be motioned and passed, and how the town would spend those funds if engaging in a cable franchise agreement.

9:30 AC recessed; 9:30 BOS reconvened

BOS motioned and approved the intent to Passover Article 2

BOS motioned and approved that \$1.2M make ready bond to be 6 month, tax exempt

9:40 BOS adjourned; AC reconvened

Resident comments and question summary

- A franchise agreement is long lasting and the relationship will need to be nurtured to be successful for the long-term
- What is the value of a network, such as the town built FTTH, should the town desire to sell it and exit delivering broadband services

AC discussion/recommendations for Warrant Articles 1,2,3

Article 1, Dave Cruise motioned the AC recommend voters vote in favor of article 1 as written. Bill Lawton seconded. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0 , motion passed.

Article 2, George Handy motioned the AC recommend voters vote to Passover Article 2. Jimmy O'Coin seconded. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0 , motion passed.

Article 3, George Handy motioned the AC recommend voters vote in favor of Article 3 to elect a 5 member PBMLP. Jimmy O'Coin seconded. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0 , motion passed.

AC thanked residents for attending late into the evening and sharing their thoughts, concerns, and recommendations

Motion and seconded, meeting adjourned 10:35 PM

Useful URLs to Publicly Posted Material for Broadband

- **Connecting Princeton:** <http://www.connectingprinceton.com/>
- **PBMLP Minutes:** <http://www.connectingprinceton.com/project-status-and-news/meeting-minutes/>
- **Comcast Proposal** – Not received yet
- **Matrix Proposal** –
 - o <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yerpuwg56gx1ykr/AADwJ68YYUfuELYibGIZXNPCa?dl=0>
- **PBMLP Cost/subscriber financial model :**
 - o <http://www.connectingprinceton.com/project-status-and-news/ftth-financials/>
- **PBMLP 2016 Residents Survey** - summary posted to Connecting Princeton
- **PBMLP Information Session Presentations** – 8/30 posted to Connecting Princeton
- **PBMLP Risk Analysis**
 - o <http://www.connectingprinceton.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/RISK-REPORT-Final.pdf>
- **MA Dept of Telecommunications and Cable**
 - o <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/government/oca-agencies/dtc-lp/>
 - o <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/docs/dte/catv/documents/207cmr.pdf>
 - o <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/government/oca-agencies/dtc->

[lp/competition-division/cable-tv-division/municipal-info/cable-television-licenses.html](http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/docs/dtc/catv/municipal-info/cable-television-licenses.html)

- <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/docs/dtc/catv/form100march2009.doc>
- <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXXII/Chapter166a/Section13>
- <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/government/oca-agencies/dtc-lp/competition-division/cable-tv-division/municipal-info/>
- <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/docs/dtc/catv/renewalguidefnl.pdf>

Meetings and Important Dates

- **Re Scheduled to take Place: September 13th, 2016** – Special Town Meeting for Warrant, 7PM Heritage Bible Chapel

Handouts

- Xfinity marketing collateral, same info as posted on Comcast website for Xfinity
 - <http://www.xfinity.com/>
 - <http://www.xfinity.com/locations/massachusetts/sterling.html>
 - <http://www.pcmag.com/article/346232/the-fastest-isps-of-2016>

Wayne M. Adams, AB Member