

Board of Selectmen Meeting - Tuesday, April 11, 2017. 7:15 p.m.
116 Main Road, Tyringham

Present-- James Consolati, Christopher Johnson & Matthew Puntin
Others present - Molly Curtin-Schaefer & (see attached list)

Mail was read, Treasury warrants were approved, previous minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mark Curtin stated the Historical Commission met with Charles Flint to Update the appraisals for Town owned artifacts. The last appraisal was In 2002. Charles Flint will not charge for his service. The members will photograph and write up the descriptions of each piece. James Consolati made a motion to allow the Historical Commission to use funds in the professional consulting budget for consulting services. Christopher Johnson, seconded, no opposition.

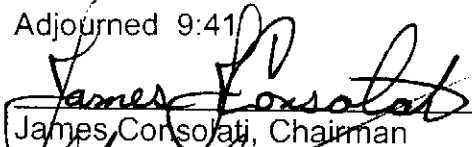
BROADBAND: The Town had a public informational meeting on Saturday, April, 10 regarding the options available to Tyringham for broadband. The MBI grant for Tyringham is \$480 K (see attached presentation slides) A questioner was distributed to the approximately 49 people in attendance and overwhelmingly the residents chose Charter Communications over Mid-Hudson as a provider. Jim Consolati made a motion to accept Charter's proposal based on the Saturday meeting input, Christopher Johnson seconded, no opposition.


ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Budgets for FY18 were reviewed. James Consolati made a motion to reword the elected officials by law in relation to meeting attendance which would require the Selectmen to investigate the specified number of absences and if appropriate, take action to remove the elected official from office. Christopher Johnson seconded, no opposition.

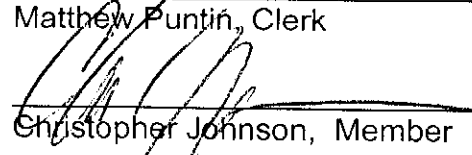
ROAD BOND: James Consolati made a motion to require Mr. Charles Slater to post a \$500.00 road bond in relation to the forest cutting plan on file. Matthew Puntin seconded, no opposition.

LIBRARY: A discussion regarding the insulation for the Library ensued. Glen Crocker from Alden Bailey stated the insulation the Town has purchased is not ideal for this application. He is looking into selling this and using that money to purchase a suitable insulation. The paint, gutters and fascia boards will be completed within the next month.

Adjourned 9:41


James Consolati, Chairman


Matthew Puntin, Clerk


Christopher Johnson, Member

Town of Tyringham



116 Main Road • P.O.Box 442 Tyringham, MA 01264
Ph.(413) 243-1749 Fax.(413) 243-4942 www.tyringham-ma.gov

April 12, 2017

Edmund Donnelly, Deputy Director
Massachusetts Broadband Institute
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

At its meeting on April 11 the Tyringham Board of Selectmen voted to accept Charter Communication's proposal to provide high-speed Internet service to the Town and to take actions necessary to implement the proposal. Also, as requested by Charter, Tyringham will not pursue extending coverage beyond 96% until after Charter finalizes its plans to provide 96% coverage to the Town.

The Board of Selectmen reached its conclusion through its own analysis and through very positive feedback received at the Town's Broadband Meeting that was held on April 8th. At our Annual Town Meeting, which will be held on May 9th, we will ask the Town to appropriate funds to pay legal and other expenses relating to the agreements that must be executed between Tyringham and Charter Communications.

We are grateful to MBI for all of the assistance that has been given to Tyringham, which has resulted in a very attractive no-cost option for the Town. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to expedite the project and your offer to provide assistance with the Cable Franchising process.

We are excited about bringing high-speed Internet service to Tyringham and we look forward to working with MBI and Charter to make it a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Consolati".

James Consolati, Chairman
Tyringham Board of Selectmen

Cc: Christopher Johnson, Matthew Puntin

Broadband Meeting Town of Tyringham April 8, 2017

2 No-Cost Options

- ❖ Charter Communications (Spectrum)
 - 96% of Town with Hybrid System
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp (WiSpring)
 - 93% of Town with Fiber to Home,
 - 4% of Town with Wireless Service
 - May revise proposal to cover 100%

Services Offered

- ❖ Charter Communications
 - Unlimited High Speed Internet
 - Phone
 - TV
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp.
 - Unlimited High Speed Internet
 - Phone

Internet Speeds & Fees

- ❖ Charter Communications (Nearest \$1)
 - 60x4 mbs \$60, 100x5 \$120,
 - + \$25 Phone, +\$5 Wireless Router (WiFi),
 - Discount W/TV, Low Income Pkg. \$15
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp. (Nearest \$1)
 - 25x5 \$90, 35x10 \$110, 50x10 \$136,
 - 75x15 \$166, 100x20 \$200, +\$6 WiFi,
 - + \$20 Phone

Installation Fees

- ❖ Charter Communications (Nearest \$1)
 - Std: 125' aerial \$50, +\$40 WiFi Activation
 - Spectrum Ultra: +\$200 WiFi Activation
 - Non-Std Install: Charter pays 1st \$3,000
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp. (Nearest \$1)
 - Std: 250' aerial \$150, \$1 per ft. over 250'
 - Underground \$1 per ft, \$2 w/new conduit

Construction

- ❖ Charter Communications
 - Within 1 year from pole licensing
 - Valley Connected via Tyringham Road
 - Goose Pond Connected via Forest Street
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp.
 - Within 1 year from pole licensing
 - Valley Connected via Tyringham Road
 - Goose New Poles Along George Canon

Coverage Beyond 96 or 97%

- ❖ Charter Communications
 - Most Likely 100% Paid by Town
 - Has Not Yet Provided a Quote
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp.
 - 100% Paid by Town ?
 - Has Quoted Price of \$120,000 ?
 - 4% of Town Still Wireless Service ?

Other Considerations

- ❖ Charter Communications
 - Large National Company
 - Uniform Pricing Throughout U.S.
 - Special Pricing for Higher Speeds & FTTH
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp.
 - Small Regional Company
 - Pricing May Vary by Service Area
 - Special Pricing for Speeds Above 100x20

What Could Go Wrong?

- ❖ Charter Communications
 - May Withdraw Offer if Not Enough Towns Sign On
- ❖ Mid-Hudson Data Corp.
 - Has Not Yet Received Qualification Status from MBI

What's Next?

- ❖ April 11, 2017
 - Board of Selectmen Could Vote to Accept Either No-Cost Option
- ❖ April 19, 2017
 - At Special Town Meeting Town Could Vote to Appropriate Funds for Expanding Coverage Beyond the 96 or 97% Levels

What Now?

- ❖ Discussion and Questions
- ❖ Questionnaire

Broadband Questionnaire

Which service provider do you like best? (Please check 1 box)

- ☐ Charter Communications
- ☐ Mid-Hudson Data
- ☐ Mid-Hudson If 100% Fiber to whole Town at no cost to Town Otherwise Charter
- ☐ None of the above. The Town should look for other options.

Should the Town appropriate up to \$150,000 for the purpose of extending broadband coverage beyond the 96% or 97% level?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments: _____

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BOARD OF HEALTH

Date: April 11, 2017

Time :

Name:

Wm WENDT

Mark J. Centuri

ROGER KETRON

TONCO Palmer