

Westmoreland Broadband Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2019
Selectmen's chambers, Town Hall

Present: John Snowdon, Chair; Chris Ballou, JJ Prior

Public present: Lori Schreier

Call to order: 6:12

Via email. on Nov 24, Ms. Schreier contacted Chris and John concerning language she proposed to be included in the CCI contract to limit the building of 5G wireless infrastructure on the new Consolidated Communications fiber network. JS invited her to attend this meeting to discuss her suggestions with the Committee. The communication is attached.

After discussion, JS told Ms Schreier the committee would not suggest including her wording as written (bold type) in the contract as, in the Committee's opinion, it completely prevents any future advancements in Internet or cell technology in Westmoreland for the next 20 years, regardless of what is developed.

Upon further discussion, the Committee will attempt to negotiate language to limit any "major changes to network infrastructure without prior consultation with the board of selectmen." The committee expressed doubts CCI will agree.

Ms. Schreier left the meeting at approximately 6:50.

The group planned a discussion structure for the public meeting on Monday December 9, and built a general agenda.

Adjourned 7:15

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Schreier <schreierlori@aol.com>

To: chris.ballou <chris.ballou@hypertherm.com>; john <john@jsnowdon.com>

Sent: Sun, Nov 24, 2019 11:10 am

Subject: Re: Consolidated Communications agreement suggestions

Hi Chris, John and J.J. (please forward to J.J.),

Thank you for all the work you have done and for entertaining my input for the Broadband agreement for our town. You already know how I feel about 5G and all that entails so part of this is about that and the other part is about installing fiber safely. From your letter to the town residents, the agreement sounds great so far. I am just hoping to address a few concerns.

First regarding 5G and Small Cells

Given

1. the increasing number of studies and scientists raising concerns over safety of 5G to human (biological and thermal effects) , animal, and insect health, along with privacy concerns, impacts on property values and national security, See link to one of the best sites compiling studies on the issues with 5G and small cells. Environmental Health Trust <https://ehtrust.org/key-issues/cell-phoneswireless/5g-internet-everything/> and
2. the fact that the NH Legislature is also concerned about the effects of 5G and has set up a 5G Commission to study its effects. See their website here for documents and minutes to date <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/1474/> and
3. the fact that the fiber to be installed by Consolidated Communications sounds like it will be adequate for internet access for the town of Westmoreland, and
4. the fact that fiber is the necessary infrastructure for 5G installations and is going to make the deployment of small cells much more likely in our town at some point, <http://www.tricornernews.com/node/58578>,

Therefore,

I propose the following language or something similar be added to the agreement with Consolidated Communications.

Under this agreement, there will not be any assumption or allowance for use by Consolidated Communications or for sub licensing of the fiber optic cables for further wireless infrastructure for internet access in Westmoreland. This includes 5G or later generation internet, through for example, connecting the fiber optic cables to small cells, antennas or other devices, placed on light poles or any other structures, buildings or homes, particularly not near where people live or children go to school.. No small cell installation shall be constructed, erected, modified, operated or maintained within the Town on any property including the public right-of- way, without the issuance of a permit and lease as required by applicable laws.

Fiber Optics Concerns

I also would like you to consider the article linked below about how to install fiber optics with human health safety in mind. Written by Jeromy Johnston, see credentials. Also please please read the comment section which further clarifies what he is recommending.

<https://www.emfanalysis.com/fiber-optics-increasing-electrical-sensitivity/>

From one of the comments replied to by Jeromy in the article above

"Fiber can be made safe, it's just that the current systems can have problems. What we need is pure fiber to the home (GPON) with no power backbone (no EMI)(Electromagnetic Interference) and a low-EMI media converter at the home. This would give us internet that is healthy/safe/fast/reliable for the entire society. The other issue is whether these fiber networks will be used for the 5G/small cell infrastructure. Local laws need to be put in place that don't allow this. Otherwise, the fiber networks can be used to radiate the entire community with RF."

As far as the above comment related to the type of fiber, I spoke with Brad Roscoe in West Chesterfield and he said that Consolidated is using GPON so that sounds good but can we confirm that?

The other issue is whether the media converter (whatever that is) they will use has high EMI. .

Questions and Comments:

1. Will Consolidated be using GPON and a low EMI media converter?
2. Is the last mile to homes going to be fiber or will Consolidated use fixed 5G home modems to make the last mile connection?
3. If new modems/routers are required to access the service through the fiber can we be assured that the modems will also be able to be hard wired with ethernet cable with wifi turned off and not just used with wifi?

Thank you. See you tomorrow evening at 6.

Lori
Lori Schreier

-----Original Message-----

From: John Snowdon <john@jrsnowdon.com>

To: Lori Schreier <schreierlori@aol.com>

Cc: JJ Prior <priorjj@gmail.com>; Chris Ballou <Chris.ballou@hypertherm.com>; Town of Westmoreland <townofwestmoreland@myfairpoint.net>

Sent: Sun, Nov 24, 2019 12:42 pm

Subject: Re: Fwd: Consolidated Communications agreement suggestions

Thank you for your kind words and email, Lori. If you come to tomorrow evening's meeting we will be happy to discuss your suggestions.

BTW, as stated in the release, we can immediately verify CCI is installing a GPON system and it will be fiber to the premise which I believe is a good start to our discussion. Also, modems do have an ethernet port allowing for a direct wired connection which is actually how the speed of the system is determined, not via wireless. Whether people use their modems for wireless in their homes is entirely up to the individual subscriber. Additionally, as I recall, subscribers have the option of buying their own modem vs buying or renting one from CCI.

Stay warm!

John