

Williamsburg Technology Committee

Held by Virtual Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2021, 6:00 PM

Present: Kyle Schwartz (KS), David Chase (DC), David Nardi (DN), Tom Adams (TA), David Martin (DM)

Others: Charlene Nardi (CN - Town Administrator)

Opened the Meeting at 6:04 PM

Minutes: Modifications were requested and approved to clarify some assignments and final numbers submitted for budget. Voted (DC/DN) to unanimously approve the minutes from 2/8/21.

Baystate/Entre Computer Meeting

KS and CN meet with Entre to review their presentation and ask questions. KS and CN both walked away with a positive feeling. KS felt it would be a better level of service than provided by Paragus. Some of this may be because of their billing method varies from Paragus. Non-project work is billed by device or per user on a monthly basis, vs. the contract amount for Paragus then hourly after that. Product work is quoted separately, as with Paragus. CN, though not excited about changing companies walked away impressed. She likes the billing model and feels the budget will be more manageable. KS and CN were scheduled for a follow up meeting on Tuesday 3/9/21 where Entre would be presenting quotes for services and answer additional questions. One question to be asked is what happens if Entre does not get renewed state contract at some point in the future. CN has asked for references, which are expected in the 3/9/21 meeting. She will contact references once received. A meeting of the Tech Committee has been setup for Monday 3/22/21 to review the quote from Entre and to hear results of contacting references and any additional input from KS and CN. Paragus requires a 30-day notice to terminate services.

Council on Aging remote support

DM had relayed a request to have a member of the Tech Committee attend the next Council of Aging meeting (Wednesday 3/17) to discuss ideas one or more members of the COA have on remote support for seniors' technology needs. The Tech Committee discussed some concerns they have on this request, such as liability, privacy concerns, and undefined technical areas to be covered. It was decided that if the COA elects to proceed with pursuing this request, the Tech Committee would be willing to brainstorm with them but would not be able to provide the technical assistance directly. DM will represent the tech committee at the next COA meeting.

Ongoing Comcast/Fiber/MBI Discussions

The tech committee continued our discussions from the previous meeting on completing the wiring of the town for Internet access and approaching Northampton to collaborate on their project of providing fiber Internet access directly to the town vs. relying solely on Comcast. The committee decided it is premature to contact Northampton on collaboration as we do not have a good feel for the need and the towns desire to finance this if it was to proceed. Charlene is reaching out to the 3 houses on Chesterfield road that do not have the capability to purchase Internet access through Comcast to see if

there is a desire/need for this. The consensus of the Tech Committee is that the average household has sufficient bandwidth from Comcast to handle the needs of most households. A survey will be available to the town that will further define the needs of the town for Internet access and the overall satisfaction with Comcast. It will also tell us the towns temperature on spending additional money to implement fiber access needed to provide our own Internet access. The Tech Committee is also investigating how to obtain feedback from people who do not currently have Internet access.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 22nd at 6:00 PM

Motion to adjourn – DC, TA.