

Dear Ms.Karen Charles Peterson:

1. MBI should not have control of the funds available to Montague and Hardwick.

The MBI has shown no competence, whereas local town officials have over many years been successful stewards of public funds, with no scandals as they turn dimes into dollars of value. We can protect the investment. And since MBI is only contributing a minority of funds, it shouldn't have control over the whole project, regardless of its competence.

2. Tilson's entire report should be discarded and given no weight.

They provided only positive commentary regarding Comcast, and only negative commentary on Matrix, making no discernible effort to discover information that would balance the report. Or at least give a perception of neutrality. They did not seek out the publicly available Matrix side of the Leverett disputes. But they did spend inordinate time focused on a rack with a manufacturer's defect, which was replaced under warrantee. A matter of a few hundred dollars in a multi million dollar contract. This was beyond silly.

A few people besides me noticed that although Mr. Broder made much of, and played the video of Mr. Lynch's slip when he mentioned "homes served" instead of "homes passed", Broder rapidly passed over the slides in his own presentation that called out "homes passed".

Tilson, in charge of the middle mile, left out the only CAI in the Southern half of Montague, and then castigated Matrix for proposing, at our request, to fix that error. Calling it an "overbuild" was disingenuous, duplicitous and deceitful. Tilson should be disqualified.

Wipro was hardly better, although better in that they didn't show up to defend the indefensible.

A final point; The reports mentioned as a technological advantage that Comcast will be offering DOCSIS3.1 technology. The entire installed base of DOCSIS3.1, as of 1st quarter 2016, is Philadelphia, with plans for Atlanta. It's not slated for us. Not in my lifetime. Offering it up as an advantage was misleading at best.

As for the financials and the Matrix responses, MBI did not accept Matrix's offer to provide audited financials under an NDA, so they can't complain about a lack of data. They also don't seem to have much of what Matrix and the town BBC's provided in the past, and discussed with the then director in public meetings. This is more evidence that Matrix would be rejected irrespective of anything that favored them.

We don't hold that Matrix's proposal is without challenges. But the challenges can be met and overcome. In Leverett, the chosen service provider had no previous broadband experience, yet MBI provided significant funds to Leverett without qualification. And the town is thrilled with their broadband network. Matrix, properly contracted, can do the same, especially since they had the responsibility for customer service of the Leverett installation for the first year..

We appreciate your time and focus in holding the hearing. Most still are concerned that the overwhelming support for a fibre build is to no effect, and the conclusion for Comcast is preordained.

We all hope for your assistance in getting the best for our towns. At minimum, this does not include Comcast in any recognizable form.

Best regards,

Personally

Rob Steinberg

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