

Minutes of the JTAC Meeting
June 14, 2001
A-B Regional High School

The meeting was called to order by at 7:35 p.m. by Co-Chair Dore' Hunter.

In attendance were: Dore' Hunter, Mark Hald, John Murray, Steve Barrett, Don Johnson, Frank Widmayer, Stuart Gilmore, Jim Chace, Sharon Summers, Rob Travers, Don Lane, Brandy Brandon and Marie Altieri.

Municipal Financial Software Update: Don Johnson reported that, after careful review with Finance staff, he is convinced that the Pentamation tax software is not salvageable. He has contacted Don Appleton, President of Pentamation, and was advised that the company would continue to support existing clients; however, the company will no longer sell the tax package in Massachusetts. Don Johnson reported that software demos have been scheduled with various vendors to seek alternative programs. John Murray reported that a survey of Pentamation software was forwarded to town hall department leaders. Eighteen responses were received out of twenty-two surveys forwarded. The results indicated 72% were not using the software, and 100% of the respondents found the software to not be user-friendly.

Joint IT Department: Terry Lindgren requested this item be placed on the agenda. Terry was unable to attend the meeting, and this subject will be discussed at the next meeting.

I-Net Update: Rob Travers, representing AT&T Broadband briefed the committee on the status of the cable contract with the Town of Acton, and the failure of AT&T to meet the deadlines imposed in that contract. Attorney Bill Solomon, who negotiated the contract for the Town joined and participated in this portion of the meeting. Mr. Travers indicated that no documentation was provided to AT&T from Cablevision in the January 2001 acquisition, and that in reviewing the structure, AT&T found a different structure than expected. The structure was not up to their standards here, and in other communities where service was purchased. AT&T is awaiting a report on the structure. The current financial difficulties of AT&T Broadband were also discussed.

Mr. Solomon stated that AT&T had indicated it could not comply with the terms of the contract, and has asked for an extension. Mr. Gilmore indicated it is better for the Town if the service is built the way it was intended, and suggested that recompense was necessary due to the breach of contract. Mark Hald indicated that he has done a complete survey of town buildings in preparation for the new I-net. Jim Chace stated he assumed the I-loop would be in place for the July start date, and had not budgeted for a backup.

(Continued on reverse...)

It was agreed that the number of fibers was stipulated in the license, and that the Cable Advisory Committee could recommend a higher number of fibers for the future for additional growth. Dore' Hunter asked if the residents would get broadband, and Rob Travers indicated that the earliest would be the end of this year or a year from now. Mr. Travers indicated he is willing to negotiate additional terms for the Town, including Internet access. Bill Solomon asked the committee to discuss two items: 1) what are the services we will need because of the failure, and 2) what additional technical operations would we recommend.

Other Business: Marie Altieri indicated that there is currently an overload on IT staff, and asked JTAC to discuss this issue at a Fall meeting, and make a recommendation. Mark Hald and Jim Chace are to meet and work out issues such as what are their operational problems, and what resources are needed. They are to report at a Fall meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Summers