

**Natick Information Systems Advisory Board (NISAB)
Meeting Minutes: March 24, 2010**

ATTENDEES

NISAB: Hank Szretter, Thomas Salvoni, John Bradford, Todd Gillenwater
Town Government: Michael Walters Young
Municipal IS Department: Robert LeFrancois
School IS Department: Dennis Roche
Interested Citizens:

AGENDA DISCUSSIONS

- Quorum: Four board members present
- Motion to accept minutes of the January 20, 2010 meeting – approved
- Bob presented the “Information Technology Director Quarterly Report”.
Items reviewed included:

Initiatives and Recent Developments:

Installed CopLogic Web based Citizen Reporting Software – allows citizens to file incident reports with the police department.
Time/Money saving for minor incidents.

Installed new Animal Licensing, Vitals and Business licensing software for the Clerk’s office.

Recently awarded \$31,000 from Verizon to be used to upgrade the core INET switches.

Exchange 2007 and AD 2008 contracts finalized – to be upgraded Spring 2010

VMware upgraded from ESX 3.5 U4 to ESX U5.

Continued deployment of replacement PCs and day to day support operations.

Purchased 12 HP Compaq Elite PCs and a HP Procurve 4204 Switch for the DPW.

Spring Projects:

Upgrade Munis (Municipal accounting package) to version 7.2 on a new AIX server.

Extend DMZ on Town Hall firewall to meeting and training rooms in Police and Fire HQ / Public Safety Building.

Upgrade to Active Directory 2008 and Exchange 2007

Install VMware vSphere on Blade Server

Upgrade Symantec AntiVirus to Symantec EndPoint 11.0

Migrate older VMs to BladeServer

Replace Core INET Switch in the Police Station

Discussed FY2011 budget process and IT Director's meeting at FinComm. Todd commented that the initial part of the meeting seemed straightforward – at least as viewed on Pegasus. He and Bob discussed a position taken by one of the FinComm members who was previously a member of the Expense Control Task Force, on the issue of consolidating the IT departments. The position taken was that even if there was no savings to be found in consolidation, “streamlining” and “process reorganization” might be possible. Suggested that this be revisited later in the agenda.

- Dennis presented the “School Technology Report”. Items reviewed included:

New school project. Reviewed overall process and timeline (all high level info) – points touched on included: enterprise wireless, phones (VOIP v PBX) open access network (vs. the goal on Municipal side), networking with other Tech Directors (both municipal and school). Discussed support model of open access system (i.e. if a client/visitor brings their own hardware, support issues around getting network access, anti-virus, problems, etc.).

Briefly revisited discussion of extending email accts to student population (management and archiving explosion). Discussed number of clients (machines and people) and locations supported.

Anticipating iPads for evaluation.

- Town Website status – Still trying to resolve content management ownership. Revisit after Town Election / Town Meeting

- Cable contract renewals – ascertainment progress. RCN active, Comcast pending. Reviewed March 24 memo from Michael Walters Young re: RCN License Update.
- Citizen’s Concerns
- Concerns of the members of the Board

Todd expressed an interest in revisiting the recurring issue/discussion of consolidating the municipal and school IT departments. Although previously discussed, this issue seems to keep coming up – as evidenced during the FinComm meeting. Questioned if the board had any interest in again expressing its position on the issue.

Tom had some background questions, and Hank gave a brief overview and history for newer members and/or members not present during previous discussions.

Members again discussed consolidation in light of disparate H/W, O/S, and S/W platforms, variation in user base, purchasing/discounts, etc. Tom mentioned various metrics (including a Gartner study) – client machines supported, number of users, server platforms (# and various O/S), number of physical locations, IT spend as percentage of budget, etc. All of these metrics tend to indicate that the departments are actually undersized.

Todd asked if the board had an interest in again taking a formal position against consolidation – especially if it came up at Town Meeting. The board expressed an interest, and Hank indicated he would talk to the Town Moderator regarding the issue.

- Next Meeting of the Board is June 9, 2010 at 3:30PM.
- Motion to Adjourn – approved