

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 6:30 pm

Attending: Doug McNally, Sheila Litchfield, Don Hall, Jeff Piemont, Kent Lew, MaryEllen Kennedy, David Dvore, Bob Gross, Bob Labrie, Kathy Soule-Regine

Guests: Bill Fontes (Heath MLP)

Called to order at: 6:31 PM

**Approval of the warrant #5 by Executive Committee**

Moved: Kent

Seconded: David

Discussion: none

Result: passed unanimously

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Vote** |
| Doug | Y |
| David | Y |
| Kent | Y |
| MaryEllen | Y |

**Approval of Minutes**

August 17, 2022

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Kent

Discussion: Kent noted some oddities in Heath depreciation statement – corrected.

Result of vote on minutes as amended: passed unanimously

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| --- | --- |
| **Member Town** | **Vote** |
| Becket | Y |
| Heath | Y |
| New Salem | Y |
| Rowe | Y |
| Washington | Y |
| Windsor | Y |

**WG&E Contract update**

Doug, Kent and Jim had meetings with WGE and internally. The proposed 2-year contract is expected to allow us and WGE to clarify how we work together; expecting we would sign a long-term contract at the end. They have discussed some of the issues we’ve seen, as well as highlighting what they are doing well. They understand that we will be looking at other options. We are bound to start negotiating a new contract 18 months after we sign this contract unless we have decided on another provider. They agreed to do an annual plan and an annual report tracking progress against that plan. WGE has entered into a long-term contract with Nokia for RRR and ongoing design, implementation and maintenance. An extended discussion about the implications of WGE’s ownership of the routers and if that will impede switching to a different vendor ensued.

**Update on from Treasurer on investments**

Possible vote on update of banking relationships

Bob Labrie has talked with 4 banks, TD Bank (our current bank) was not interested in working with us on investments. We have 2 types of reserves: from activation fees – long term, excess revenue shared yearly – short term. Stocks are not a good investment right now – this year, mutual funds lost 12-15%, so Bob is looking at CDs. CDs are of varying length, Greenfield Savings Bank had the highest rates. He will check on whether our non-profit would get better rates. Jeff doesn’t want to see the money tied up. He wanted to confirm whether we still have zero tolerance for loss – we do. Money market gives more liquidity, CDs can lock up the money for some period. Doug had a recommendation for “cascading CDs,” which start with a money market. Bob will use Jim’s budget to determine how much money will need to be on hand.

**RRR update**

Central cluster just met; Doug felt comfortable with the Nokia engineer. The equipment is all in, so projecting completion in FY23. Southern cluster met as well, have not identified where the backhaul links will be or what provider will be used. David was impressed by the Northern cluster meeting, with Nokia managing the project. Crown Castle fiber has been patched from Rowe hut to 1 Fed and tested. The East cluster hasn’t met yet. Central will start with 3 10G backhaul circuits – 2 from Verizon ($1800) and one from LocalLinx (LL) in Windsor. John Leary is talking to LL trying to change the requirement to finish existing contracts. John Leary advises waiting to order circuits – LL may have better pricing. David – WCF has some LL circuits used internally (e.g. from Greenfield), which will be useless if all clusters choose other providers.

**Billing and payments for installations**

Kent reports that all money collected from the customers goes to WW, with no way to identify the installation payments.

When a customer is installed, Kent tells WG&E what to bill the customer & also tells Jessica so she can account for what has been collected. WCF sends a bill to Washington for the whole installation charge. Washington policy is based on specific parts of the installation.

Doug asked that all towns send Kent their drop policy.

**Finance Report**

Passed over

**Town updates**

Sheila asked if Jim was asked to get quotes for HVAC maintenance. She sent him a proposal Heath got which seemed high. Doug will remind Jim of this. David reminds us that we may need different vendors due to location. Send Jim any information on potential vendors.

**Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting**

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

October 19, 6:30pm

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** 8:10 pm