

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting

Online

Wednesday, August 18 2021

Attending: Doug McNally, Jeff Piemont, Steve Nelson (emeritus), Kent Lew, David Dvore, Jim Drawe, MaryEllen Kennedy, Don Hall, Kathy Soule-Regine, David Gordon (for Heath)

Guests: Scott Rogers (Windsor)

Called to order at: 6:33pm

**Approval of the warrant by Executive Committee**

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

Moved Kent, 2nd MaryEllen,

Kent asked why his pole licensing is not included. Jessica is away, so it will be in the next warrant.

**Approval of Minutes**

 July 21, 2021

Moved: David

Seconded: Kent

Discussion:

Result:passed unanimously

**Report from the Executive Director**

Jim sent notes to the delegates. Audit is in process.

WG&E contract – Jim has a meeting scheduled on August 24 to start discussions. Jim feels the only thing needing negotiation is the wholesale price.

WCF said they removed a tree in New Salem but did not. Requested they do another tree on the same street, Jim showed them the contract we have which states they agreed to do this maintenance.

Jim notes that December, May, and June have heavy expenses (pole licenses, insurance, etc).

**Policy on publication of financial information**

 Discussion and possible vote on what is released to the press.

Steve wrote a press release. Jim (and others) feel that we should inform our citizens that WiredWest is working well. Doug thinks it will help to help the WiredWest visibility. Kathy feels the wording should be careful since the money is going to the MLP, not the towns. If we receive follow-up calls, Steve recommends we refer them to Doug and Jim. David feels the announcement should state that our operation as a coop is saving money for our towns. Kathy suggests that we also stress the administrative burden taken off the towns.

Steve will add those points and send to Jim. He will share it with Larry Parnell (Berkshire Eagle) and other publications. We can also put it into town newsletters or other local media.

**Hut monitoring**

Possible vote to adopt WCF service if we have a proposal.

No contract yet. There will be a demo tomorrow of the remote interface. Jim will send the invite to all.

**Backhaul resilience**

Report on any progress. Possible vote if WiredWest action is identified.

Jim sent an email to Joe Parda, who replied he is not involved in the design of the future network. David thought Joe was supposed to develop a plan to create the design. Doug – Windsor now has 2Gb, does not feel the need for that much backup, so will choose the 1Gb backup. Kent notes that there is only a 25% discount for asymmetrical backup. David was quoted $1,750/month for 10Gb by Verizon with a 36 month contract – Verizon has fiber in any town whose CO has DSL.

Jim sent the proposed contract for rings to Deidre, now on second edit. The contract should be available in the next few weeks.

Jim spoke to Graeme Sephton of Shutesbury. The have a similar concern about loss of VoiP since the town has little cell service. Jim is looking at the Utopia model, where multiple providers can connect to a ring and customers can choose providers. Jim feels that this open source model should be in the design.

Kathy asked Caitrin to add a discussion of how we should communicate with WFC to the next partners meeting.

Jim sent email today to Tom asking for progress on the ring design, no reply yet.

David reporting his frustration with communication with WCF. There’s a concern that they are not accepting our input and might not produce a design that meets our needs. Doug – we need to remember that we are a small group of the WCF towns. We weren’t expecting that WW would be the only entity, WCF should include other towns for input as well. David reminds us there will be a cost in equipment. Jim will ask Joe P to send the contracts to the towns. The towns will pay for the capital expense, with monitoring billed to WW.

**Communications with WCF**

Discuss any difficulties our members are having. Possible vote if action needed.

**Finance Report**

The July P&L reports in the August 4 drop box.

**Town updates**

Heath – 2 FSAs have been released, the other 2 expected in September and October. The connection to Charlemont is in FSA3, not released yet. Doug – make sure they test that fiber connection to Charlemont before accepting the FSA.

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

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

September 15 6:30pm

October 20 6:30pm

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** 7:33pmJeff moved, Kent seconded