

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting

Online

Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 6:30 pm

**Attending:** Doug McNally, Sheila Litchfield, Jeff Piemont, MaryEllen Kennedy, David Dvore, Don Hall, Kent Lew, Robert Gross

**Guests:** David Gordon

**Called to order at:** 6:31pm

**Approval of the warrant by Executive Committee**

Moved: Kent

Seconded: David

Discussion: None

Vote:

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

**Approval of Minutes**

April 20, 2022

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Kent

Discussion: some corrections made – reported by Sheila, Kent & Jeff. Corrections read by clerk.

Vote:

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

Result: amended minutes approved unanimously

**WCF contract update**

Passed over, no update available.

**Bylaw change**

Second reading of and vote to approve amended bylaw regarding Investment Committee

Kent moved, Jeff seconded to pass over reading the bylaw change.

Discussion: Sheila reported that the original mention of the Executive Director as an ad hoc member included that the ED would not be a voting member.

Vote:

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

Result: agreement to bypass approved unanimously

**Finance Report**

Jessica Drawe’s letter to delegates with the warrant for approval also noted our current bank balances.

**Town updates** 15 minutes

Sheila would like to see a hut operations manual covering the monitoring system, e.g. how to respond to the different sensors. Doug wants a list of who will be contacted for the different alarms. Some folks have heard that Cebula would be doing a Zoom session to train us. We should request this. Jeff – we should have a ‘crowd-sourcing’ document to accumulate knowledge. Doug will discuss our concerns with Jim. Possibly include the training in a WiredWest meeting.

David reported that a large tree took down multiple poles in Rowe. The fiber was not broken. The fiber carried the main feed for 2 FSAs and both MBI links. He has not had much response from WCF on moving the Northern cluster forward, which would provide some diversity of path to backhaul.

Doug reports the Middle RRR cluster will have 3 PoPs of 10Gb each from 2 providers, with 6 pathways through the mesh for redundancy. Windsor currently paying $3k/month for 1G. The cluster plan will likely cost Windsor $1200 for about 5Gb. David says the Northern tier will have similar savings and redundancy. He is concerned that WCF doesn’t have the resources to support the new topologies. David has heard that HG&E does have the ability to design and support these more complex networks. They are working to identify the deliverables that WCF must agree to and price before agreeing to the contract. Doug – we are WCF’s largest customer (after Westfield) and we should be able to ensure that they will complete these changes successfully. Kent – the evolution of the network could be separated from the ISP function, so the clusters could conceivably end the work with WCF and contract independently for the improved backhaul service or other network expansions. Jeff agrees that we do not want to be tied to a specific provider. Another option – ask WCF to subcontract the design and implementation of the RRR clusters.

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

Kent – one of the phone costs has increased. The OOMA Regulatory Compliance Fee is increasing by $0.48 to $2.46. We need to decide whether to cover the additional cost. They are itemized on the customer bill. We had agreed to cover the OOMA fees.

Doug made a motion to instruct Jim to tell WCF that we will cover the increased OOMA fee, since we had voted earlier to pay those fees for the customers. Kent -seconded.

Discussion: David recalled that we had set the customer fees before we knew about these OOMA fees and did not want to increase our phone pricing. Jeff is concerned that we have no control over OOMA fee increases. Robert – we do say the price doesn’t include all fees and we have the flexibility to change what we subsidize if fees increase greatly.

Sheila – should we give refunds for the additional cost? Kent – phone fees vary every 3 months, so small changes to the bill should not be surprising and warrant a refund.

Vote:

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

Result: approved unanimously

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

June 15, 2022, 6:30pm

July 20, 2022, 6:30pm

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** Kent moved, Sheila seconded

Vote:

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

Result: Adjourned at 7:48pm