

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 6:30 pm

Attendees: Doug McNally, Jim Drawe, Jeff Piemont, David Dvore, Kent Lew, Kathy Soule-Regine, Art Schwenger, MaryEllen Kennedy

Called to order at: 6:33pm

**Approval of Warrant #7 by Executive Committee**

Moved: Kent

Seconded: MaryEllen

Discussion: Kent does not see any changes needed to be made to the warrant, though we may dispute some charges.

Result: passed unanimously

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

**Approval of Minutes**

September 21, 2022

Moved: Jeff

Seconded: MaryEllen

Discussion: Jeff – treasurer update had a garbled sentence, corrected.

Result:

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

**WCF**

Discussion of practices and actions WCF has initiated based on our negotiations.

Doug has seen some improvements in project management and engineering support for RRR, did feel that WCF is more receptive to our feedback now. David thinks things are better, but still has some concerns: they lost the person who was maintaining fiber maps, they have Nokia support, but not from Cisco whose routers will still form the core of the network. Doug – as a municipal department, it’s difficult and expensive to add staff, so using subcontractors makes sense. Jim is checking with Brian on the status of the new Cisco routers. Kent agrees communication has improved and RRR is moving forward. He would like to see more professionalism: e.g. responding to queries, more accurate billing information. WCF says they will be return to meeting with the towns, which will be an opportunity to provide more feedback to them.

Doug suggests we should ask Jim to send them a positive note on the progress they’ve made and ask them to schedule the monthly meetings with our towns, so we can continue to work on improvements.

Jim has had monthly meetings with Caitrin and/or Brian. He’s edited the agenda in advance, so they will have resources available to address items as needed. The meeting with towns should have minutes, with action items. Projects should have regular reports, even if no action has occurred.

**WG&E Contract update**

Vote to approve if final version is ready.

Jim sent out the latest update for review. A main item is cost of withdrawal, WCF wants the original cost for phones and routers. Doug – we wouldn’t want to buy the old routers. He has not seen other ISPs offer to manage the customer’s routers as WCF does.

Kent thinks the contract should be clear that WCF must cooperate with us on the transition to a new provider. We should specify that routers be purchased at an agreed upon price to be set if and when we plan to transition. We should decide with the new provider whether we should own the routers. Kent – the remote management protocol is a standard, so a new vendor could obtain the remote access capability if they don’t currently have it.

Jeff thinks we should advocate for routers which are able to be managed by more than one vendor. The cost of the routers must be included in WCF’s charges, so we have been paying for them over time.

Jim agrees the contract language should change to allow the option to return the routers or to purchase them at a reasonable price. He requested we schedule next EC meeting as a full board meeting and inform all delegates in advance.

**Update from Treasurer on investments** – passed over, Treasurer not present.

**Executive Director Report**

Jim went over his notes emailed to delegates on Wednesday. He pushed back on the price increase since we are still on our old contract. He will share the backup data for any repair bills with the towns.

**RRR update**

Northern cluster met this morning. Main discussion was on number of backhaul circuits. David was told that LocalLinx doesn’t know if they’ll be managing the Middle Mile until the contract is awarded in January. He expects that contracts would have to be honored by a new vendor, but LocalLinx is reluctant to commit.

Kent - Southern cluster had a meeting, considering 3 backhaul circuits. It appears some options would not provide path diversity, currently considering LL and Verizon.

Doug – Central is currently working on choice of vendors and location for backhaul.

MaryEllen – nothing to report for Eastern.

Jim – there should be a testing plan and results published. There should be a test bed to try all features we are expecting to use, and to test transition.

**Finance Report**

Jim presented the budget and actual to date – available in DropBox. Electricity costs are higher and David notes the price is increasing greatly now. We may be missing some bills for insurance and pole licensing.

**Town updates**

Jim sat in on Heath & Washington’s ML Board meetings. He’d like to get an invite to the other ML Board meetings.

David reported an alarm went off in Rowe Town Hall. Firefighters had to break in to discover a false alarm. We need to make sure there is more than one person who can respond in emergencies in our huts and also make sure emergency workers are aware of the presence electronic equipment.

WW is moving to a new website. The was no warning that the current hosting site will be shut down soon, so there may be some interruption to wiredwest.net emails and the website. David has taken the lead to find a new web site and start migration, Jim and MaryEllen are helping.

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

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

November 2 6:30pm

November 16 6:30pm

December 21 6:30pm

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** 8:07pm

Moved: Art

Seconded: Kent