

**Minutes**

 WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 6:30 pm

**Attending:** Sheila Litchfield, Jim Drawe, MaryEllen Kennedy, Doug McNally, Kent Lew, Jeff Piemont, Robert Gross, Don Hall, Bob Labrie (Treasurer), David Dvore, Art Schwenger, Jim Drawe

**Guests:**

**Called to order at:** 6:32 pm

**Approval of Warrant #8 by Executive Committee**

Moved: Kent

Seconded: MaryEllen

Discussion:

Result: approved unanimously

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

Doug received a bill from Verizon – true up for work during construction, so it’s a Town expense, not WiredWest.

**Amend warrant #6 approval to correct amounts (Executive Committee)** 5 minutes

The updated warrant is now in the DropBox folder. Additional corrections: the amount of the New Salem drop fees to be removed is $3,696,61 ($3,843.80 was correct for the New Salem MLP fees). Also removed Heath Drop fees - $253.30. The corrected total is $126,427.10.

Moved: Kent moved to table – to be corrected in EC minutes approval

Seconded: Doug

Discussion:

Result: Motion was tabled

**Approval of Minutes**

October 19, 2022 Board of Directors meeting

Moved: Kent

Seconded: David

Discussion: none

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

**Executive Director’s Report**

Jim sent requests for quotes to some HVAC maintenance firms, but had no response. He’s sent paper messages to a larger number of firms around Western Mass.

**Letter of support for LocalLinx to MBI**

At last WCF meeting, they brought LocalLinx to present on their plans. There was a hint of pricing a 10G circuit at $1700, similar to Verizon and a suggestion that their circuits would have fairly low latency. MBI has an RFP out and the question is whether we should send a letter in support of their bid (a couple of towns have done this). Kent feels that LocalLinx has been getting more responsive and thinks continuity of operator of MB123 would be beneficial. David agrees that they are doing a good job and doesn’t see any downside to expressing support. The letter should mention all our towns and subscriber numbers.

Moved: Doug moves that Jim and Kent will draft a letter of support and we authorize them to send to MBI without a further vote.

Seconded: Jeff

Discussion: Jeff would like to add that their recent communication suggests their pricing will be competitive.

Vote:

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

Result: approved unanimously

**WG&E Contract** 30 minutes

Vote to approve the final version of the WG&E contract as sent to delegates by Jim Drawe

Moved: Kent

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion: Jeff asked if this is the best we can get, Doug feels it is. He spoke to Tom Flaherty; they seem to feel this is not an exit strategy on our part. David wondered why they removed sections about building up their technical expertise. Jim says they have long-term contracts for support from Nokia and have brought in folks to help with the Cisco upgrade. Doug – for RRR they didn’t want to subject other towns to WW requirements. Jeff would prefer that disposition of the routers if we leave should not be included in the contract. WG&E insisted that purchase must be at the price they paid. Jim – when we write the RFP for a new NO, we can specify that they replace the routers and return the old ones to WG&E.

Sheila asked to move the question. This vote is on terminating discussion.

Vote:

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

Result: motion to move the question failed.

Discussion continues: Kent asked if there were additional questions. Jeff asked about clause about wholesale Internet (4.9.1). That is the bandwidth from WCF to the Internet, which WCF pays for. We pay for the backhaul to reach the WCF PoPs. Lit services mean defined bandwidth and equipment, vs. dark fiber where the customer provides equipment and determine speeds.

Vote on signing the contract:

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

Result: Motion carries.

**Update from Treasurer on investments**

Bob had a call from Florence Savings Bank, they have a CD available at 4.5%, but their online offerings are not so good. Greenfield Savings bank offered some flexibility on negotiating some aspects of their CDs; one customer was offered a one time no-penalty option if the CD was cashed in. He thinks it may be better to use multiple banks for investments. He needs cash flow information from Jim to set our plans. Kent finds the one-time opportunity attractive. He’d like to move from TD Bank soon, would like a recommendation for where to put the checking account. Bob thinks Florence or Greenfield banks would be good for that. The investment committee should meet with Bob to approve changes to be presented at the next Board meeting.

**RRR update**

Jeff asked about status of WCF’s 100G routers. David – WCF have the routers, but they have not been installed. WCF are said to be working on getting them in place now. Kent is still waiting for output from the last review.

**Finance Report**

At next Board meeting

**Town updates**

All have been contacted about the “Last Mile Hurrah” – a celebration with the governor.

Becket has one area (about 50 customers) which won’t be worked on till spring, but the rest of the town should be complete in a few weeks.

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

Bob asked about the fiber which connected Geo Propane – could it be given to Goshen to solve an issue with reaching the Fire Station? He asked Jim to propose this to the Goshen SB.

**Kent:** motion to authorize our Executive Director to offer our unused fiber from the George Propane connection to the town of Goshen for up to $1.

Second: Sheila

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

Result: motion carried

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

Nov 16 6:30pm

December 21 6:30pm

January 18, 2023, 6:30pm

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** 8:20p,

Moved: Jeff

Seconded: Sheila