

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, March 15, 2022, 6:30 pm

**Attending:** Sheila Litchfield, Doug McNally, Jim Drawe, Jeff Piemont, Bob Gross, Kent Lew, Kathy Soule-Regine, Don Hall

**Guests:** Alina Ashlaban

**Called to order at:** 6:33pm

**Approval of Warrant #17 by Executive Committee**

Moved: Kent moved that we approve the warrant for $133,819.06.

Seconded: Doug

Discussion: Doug wants an explanation of backhaul charges for Windsor. If there’s a mistake it can be corrected afterward.

Vote:

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

Result: approved

**Approval of Minutes**

February 15, 2023

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Kent

Discussion:

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

Result: approved

**WCF Liaison Brian Sullivan**

Brian was unable to join due to connectivity problems. Alina is now the WiredWest customer service representative. At WCF since 2014, she is the contact for accounts, billing, CRM. She has been cleaning up our customer accounts (duplicates, etc). Chris Tougas is billing manager for town accounts. Send customer billing issues, questions about the CRM to Alina. Contact Brian for the “big picture” questions. Kathy asked who to contact about new locations? We can send these questions to Alina.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Jim sent notes to all delegates. He thinks we’ll be notified soon of the updated maps and other data online, he will contact Chris Lavertu. Asplundh is working in Heath. He has found the Plume devices are sold to customers at cost. Jim will sign the agreement with WCF about Plume. Windsor may still have some speed issues; WCF replaced a card recently, they are still working on this. Still waiting for WCF to remove Goshen fiber, formerly used to connect George Propane. John Leary reported that MBI will have a 10G backhaul option for $1,700. WCF will sell the 7210s and pay back the towns. Jim found an issue with the VoIP charges for USF; he is working with WCF on that. Sheila reports that Bill Ennen said that we will not be liable for retroactive payments for pole licenses from National Grid.

**Digital Equity Planning Grant**

Doug (& Kent) attended a BRPC meeting on this. 2 camps: cable towns which are unhappy who’d like to develop an improvement plan. They don’t want to overbuild but push the cable companies to improve. The towns who own networks are looking at a planning grant, to provide devices and/or training for folks for Internet access or improve affordability. Planning grant must precede an action grant. The suggestion is for towns to combine when applying for grants; the Berkshire members of WW are interested. It’s possible other towns in Hampshire/Franklin could join. FRCOG is a qualified planning consultant for Franklin County. Sheila - Heath MLP has asked their Selectboard to find other people, since they are still building.

**Allocating Backhaul and Maintenance costs**

Moved: Kent moved to table this until David is available.

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion:

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

Result: approved

**RRR update**

Northern Tier has approved the low-level design (LLD). John Leary expects MBI to publish their new rate before the migration. Southern Tier was told to expect a mid-summer go live. Kent is concerned about QoS, wants to discuss this before LLD is complete.

**Finance**

Still under budget on expenses, though over on maintenance and repair. Jim will send the finance report to delegates.

**Town updates**

Sheila – Internet stayed on, and fiber was holding up some trees during the last storm!

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

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

April 19

May 17

Future - every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** Doug moved, Sheila seconded, 7:43pm