

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 6:30 pm

**Attending:** Doug McNally, Sheila Litchfield, Jim Drawe, Don Hall, MaryEllen Kennedy, David Gordon, Jeremy Dunn, Kent Lew, David Dvore, Bob Labrie, Dave Arney

**Guests:**

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

**Approval of Warrant #24**

Moved: Kent

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion: David sees the bill for Rowe was in the share, but not in the warrant. He requests we add

The $368.71 charge, making the total $112,140.68.

Kent seconded the motion.

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

Result: amendment approved

Doug sees a repair invoice for a network extension which says customer charge “No” – Windsor does not pay for this. Kent – Network extension is a town charge, should not appear on WW bill. Jim will address this with WCF to bill the customer.
Jeremy asked how customer installation charges/payments flow through WW. Jim – all WCF receipts go through Square to WW, then WCF bills us. The costs go through a pass-through account. Today, WCF bills towns for construction and WW for repairs (until the end of this Fiscal Year). After July, WW will pay construction bills and towns will only see a payment at the end of the year.

Kent asked about the $82.50 credit booked as “Inroll ACP fees” – Jim thinks the rebate is for payment we made in advance for the ACP website

Moved: Kent moved to approve the budget as amended.

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion:

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

Result: approved

**Approval of Minutes**

June 5, 2024

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Kent

Discussion:

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

Result: approved

**Distribution of Cash Reserve funds**

Kent asked Jim if he has any other comments on his comparison of insurance between PURMA and our current carrier (Hanover through MIIA). PURMA has a limit of $500k per year (plus $1.5M contingency). Jeremy reports there’s a person in Becket (Dave Johnson) who has extensive experience in insurance. He would be willing to discuss – Jim asked Jeremy to set up a meeting and ask Mr. Johnson to review Jim’s analysis of the Hanover policy. Kent suggests asking him to review a current policy as well to evaluate if it is sufficient. Kent thinks we can better decide on reserves once we are clear about our insurance. David D. points out that we need to consider the co-insurance copay as well as the deductible in deciding on reserves. Jim – Hanover is the only policy we could get after much research. Doug – MIIA has been an effective advocate for towns. We hope to have this information for the next meeting. Jim reminds us that insurance is a reimbursement, so we must pay first. If it’s a large event, FEMA may reimburse up to 80% of the uninsured amount, but payment takes time. Jim – PURMA’s definition of debris – what is left when an insured asset is destroyed (so tree removal is not covered). During the last ice storm, there was a shortage of bucket trucks.

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

Sheila asked if towns are still subsidizing installations and by how much

* New Salem - $300
* Rowe – covers all
* Becket - $750
* Windsor $300
* Washington – was interior cost, now $625
* Heath – none now

Sheila asked about reimbursement for returned fiber – WCF will send a check if the town has no balance, otherwise it will deduct any balance owed. New Salem wants to be sure it’s not used to pay for RRR.

Jim sent an email asking for the value of our networks – please send him this information. It should include distribution cable and drops, labor and materials. Jeremy – should it be replacement cost? Jim – it should be compounded at 3%/year. Jeremy thinks that, even in a serious storm, most fiber will be intact, though it may no longer be attached. Jim says the labor to replace the fiber would be much more than the cost of the fiber, and there may be breaks requiring splicing. Kent thinks we should try to determine cost per mile from this data. Jim suggests using WCF’s standard costs for drops. Jeremy thinks we should focus on the labor costs. Jim thinks it’s safest to overestimate the value of the network, since that determines the cap on insurance repayment.

Jim has given Tom Flaherty evidence of our Line of Credit. He agreed that they would start work in the event of an emergency, since he sees evidence of our ability to pay.

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

July 3, 6:30pm

July 17, 6:30pm

August 7, 6:30pm

Future – every 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6:30pm

**Adjourn** 7:37pm Kent moved, Sheila seconded, approved by voice vote.