

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday December 4, 2024, 6:30 pm

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

**Guests:**

**Called to order at:** 6:30pm

**Approval of Warrant #11**

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Bob G.

Discussion: The total amount is $34,161.93.

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

Result: approved

**Approval of Minutes**

November 6, 2024

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Kent

Discussion: Sheila suggested some corrections to the insurance discussion. They were made.

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

Result: approved

November 20, 2024

Moved: Kent

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion:

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

Result: approved

**Executive Director’s Report**

Please read Jim’s notes from Nov 20 and bring any questions and comments.

Sheila reported that both of the UPS units in Heath were replaced. WCF said the units have a 3 year life span. Jim has asked WCF to get the failed units repaired to serve as standbys. They could be available to any WW member. Doug reminds us he has a spare fan for the A/C units in the United Concrete huts.

One member’s insurance renewal will be on Jan 14. Jim has found that it can be cancelled later without a big penalty if we decide to go with PURMA. Bob G. asked to clarify with MIIA whether the limits are per incident or per year. He’s not getting much information from them yet.

Jim got word that our maps for DigSafe have been updated with a smaller distance limit.

**Finance/Investment Report**

Accounts between GSB & Fidelity have been linked. Our ACH limit has been $5,000 and Bob found he does not have to raise this to move money if he pulls from Fidelity. Bob has found that the Fidelity CDs are covered by FDIC insurance since they are held by banks. He will make sure not to exceed the coverage limit with any bank.

**WCF Subscriber Service Charges**

Jim still thinks it won’t fly. He asked Tom for some data and suggested he wait until more time has passed to determine charges. Tom has not responded. Jeremy suggests that we just withdraw, and vote at a subsequent meeting. Jim feels we can just wait until WCF clarifies the proposal. Doug spoke to another town which also agrees with us. Jeremy withdraws his suggestion.

**UPS Trip Lite** 15 minutes

Discussed under Jim’s notes.

**Distribution of Excess Reserve Funds** 20 minutes

Discussion of what is needed for reserves and insurance coverage. Possible update on insurance research.

No update at this time.

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

Jim was phoned by someone about their second home in Becket. His phone number has now been purged from the website. The website has much obsolete information – Jim wants to know if we should remove a lot of old material. David made many changes when we went operational, some things might be useful historically. He’d like help in deciding what to remove. Bob L. saw a message on Facebook right after Thanksgiving reporting an outage (not a WW customer). We haven’t posted on FB since 2021. Do we want to keep our Facebook page? Bob is monitoring but doesn’t see much use for us. Jeremy agrees – we are not trying to get to new towns and he doesn’t think the brand is well known. If we can have a page which just gives information (contact numbers, DigSafe, our web site). Bob will put in a generic blurb including the names of towns which are members and contact information. All towns have a page on the WW website – please look and report any changes you would like made to David D.

Heath – National Grid pole replacement work. Sen. Paul Mark is working with them. He doesn’t believe they should be charged. Doug suggests that the towns require National Grid to pay for moves during pole hearings. But pole hearings are not needed if the new pole is within 3 feet. There was feedback to MBI during a meeting that towns should not have to pay for a move if they are already licensed on the poles. It may be up to the DPU.

Bob Gross – Hilltown CDC is interested in doing the vetting of customers for towns who want replace the ACP subsidy themselves. Not sure if they would cover all our towns.

Several folks attended the MBI BEAD presentation. It seems they are making it very difficult for small providers. They mentioned 25% matching funds – Jim says the towns would need to provide that. We would need WCF to take the lead on this.

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

December 18, 2024, 6:30pm

January 8, 2025, 6:30pm

January 22, 2025, 6:30pm

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

**Adjourn** Kent moved, Doug second 7:37pm