

**Minutes**

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

Online

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 6:30 pm

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

**Guests:**

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

**Approval of Warrant #12**

Moved: Sheila

Seconded: Bob G.

Discussion:

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

Result: Approved

MaryEllen pointed out a duplicate payment on the warrant.

Moved: Kent moved to rescind the vote on warrant #12

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion:

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

Result: approved

Moved: Kent moved approve the warrant with the Blue Host bill removed, for a total of $136,634.53
Seconded: Sheila

Discussion:

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

Result:

**Approval of Minutes** 5 minutes

December 4, 2024

Moved: Kent

Seconded: Sheila

Discussion:

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

Result:

**Executive Director’s Report**

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

We missed 2 invoices from WCF for pole transfers and battery replacement in Becket. They will be included on the next warrant. These batteries were more expensive; they are expected to have longer life. But we’ve been told that the UPS devices also have a fairly short lifetime (3-5 years). The cost was over $7,000. Kent had a quote for battery replacement that was much less. David reminds us that the batteries are only needed for a short time until the generator starts. The UPS devices can have network cards to allow for remote monitoring. Jim will contact WCF to challenge the cost for Becket’s batteries. Jim has asked John Leary to find the network cards for the UPS units. The units will alarm (sound) when they are failing. The group wants to see if we can add remote monitoring before planning to replace batteries.

Jamie Cincotta (WCF) reports that the spring rideout repairs are almost complete.

Sheila reviewed an insurance quote which explained we need to increase our deductible to $100,000 and the premium would go up by $3,480 annually plus a terrorism charge. Jeremy was concerned by the increased deductible. Jim thinks the PURMA quote is looking more attractive. Our quotes so far have not included subscriber drops. Kent reminds us that poles are not included. David D. looked at this – it seems cheaper just to pay for replacement poles.

The FY24 audit is in progress. Jim expects a report shortly.

**Hilltown CDC / ACP subsidy**

Bob G heard that Otis is planning to reinstate the ACP subsidy using Hilltown CDC to validate income. Becket is planning to pursue this and asked towns to contact him if they are interested. Jim says he can account for the costs for vetting and the subsidy. The Hilltown CDC application seemed to be allowing people who are receiving federal subsidies to be approved.

**Finance/Investment Report**

Bob L. transferred $350,000 from GSB to Fidelity for the first time. He found that the float time is 15 days if pulled from Fidelity but will be cleared immediately if pushed from GSB. The money does earn interest with Fidelity during the float period.

**Distribution of Excess Reserve Funds**

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

See Executive Director’s report above.

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

Windsor has a new interim chair of the MLP Board – John Jones.

Sheila reports that Heath is still looking for an MLP Manager.

**Confirm next BoD meetings**

January 8, 2025, 6:30pm

January 22, 2025, 6:30pm

February 5, 2025, 6:30pm

February 19, 2025, 6:30pm

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

**Adjourn** 7:34pmKent moved, Sheila seconded. Approved by voice vote.