

Newbury REDI Board minutes -- 3-12-2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 PM by Claude Phipps.

Attendees: Lenice Cicchini, Brad Vietje, Chip Conquest, Dan Burwinkel, Claude Phipps, Nate Dudenhoeffer, Jim Henderson, Dan Lemay

There was some discussion of Susan Underwood resigning from the board. Some suggestions were made about a replacement for Susan on the board. Lenice will contact Hannah Narowski to gage her interest in serving.

The minutes from February 26 meeting were approved by unanimous ballot

Treasurers report:

No funds have gone out. Checks were ordered. A \$50 donation was received and deposited.

Clerks Report:

Brad is working on getting a SAM number. Should have more information in 2 business days.

Sub-Committees

- Coordination with FairPoint
 - o Letter from Consolidated describing engineering study was received and read aloud. The letter describes the cost at \$25,000, reduced by in-kind donation of \$5000 to \$20,000.
 - o Ed put together an MOU identifying Jeff and Chip as respective representatives. Some discussion was had about changing the format to be a one-way MOU. The letter will be modified to be only a letter from Newbury REDINEet detailing who will be negotiating on our behalf, not requesting a representative for Consolidated. Lenice will work with Ed on making appropriate changes to the letter, listing all board members by name.

- Technology

- o Dan reported on some reading he has done about 5G cellular. Latency has been reduced to sub 3ms. ATT is currently rolling out 5G. Significant spectrum is available and could be an alternative to fiber-to-home. We don't have any information on cost. Could also make cell providers viable competitors. We need to find someone who can help determine how that might impact our pricing structure.

- o How 5G impacts the Newbury REDInet business model will be a future agenda item. Chip will ask contacts in the legislature for suggested technical expert. Nate will reach out to Ubiquiti Networks to see if they offer equipment in the 5G spectrum and if they offer consulting services with the equipment. Others will do some reading on the technology to be better informed for a future discussion.

- Finance

- o The USDA grant application is still in progress. The current plan is that the town would apply for the grant since REDInet supposedly can't. The details of how that would work are to be determined this week and presented to the Select Board by Claude, Laurie and Rick. Claude has verbal OK from USDA that the town is separate enough to qualify for the grant.

- o Eric Law (loan department at USDA) is working with others at the USDA to determine if we qualify for a USDA rural development loan and if that can cover the engineering study.

- Proposed Statute Amendment

- o There was some discussion about the displeasure of the group with the Select Board having complete authority over the board. There was a decision not to pursue changes at this point in time.

Volunteer MOU The MOU which Dan submitted will be used. Dan will put on REDInet letterhead with a date and revision number, then send a copy to CJ, Laurie, Rick, Richard, and any others.

Next Steps

- Checklist of steps in project identifying Consolidated or REDInet for each. Brad and Dan to work with Les

Some discussion was had about the REDInet relationship with CJ, and better understanding her spreadsheet. Les has been in contact with Brad about explaining the contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM