

Newbury Telecommunications Rural Development Infrastructure District Minutes, October 16, 2017, Horace W. Bailey Club, Newbury VT

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Claude Phipps. Present at the meeting were:

Claude Phipps*	Jim Henderson*
Chip Conquest*	Rick Hausmann
Dan Burwinkel *(via phone)	Les Thomas
Brad Vietje*	CJ Stumpf
Susan Underwood*	Nate Dudenhoeffer
Lenice Cicchini*	*REDI Board Members

Approval of Minutes from 10/9/2017

Brad moved to approve the minutes, Jim seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting schedule for district board

Jim moved to schedule the meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 4:30 PM. Lenice seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Discussion

Brad expressed concern that the early time might exclude residents who have normal work hours. However the consensus was that people could come late and agenda items could be set later in the meeting as necessary to allow all to participate.

Meeting Location

Chip moved that the meetings be held at the town office. Brad seconded. Passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

Chair: Chip nominated Claude. Lenice seconded. Passed unanimously.

Vice Chair: Claude nominated Lenice. Dan seconded. Passed unanimously.

Clerk: Chip nominated Brad. Jim seconded. Passed unanimously

Discussion

Claude clarified the duties of the clerk to be:

1. Ensuring that a copy of the minutes was filed appropriately.
2. Posting a corrected copy to the Town Website and the District Website when available.
3. Following any other directives from Chapter 138 of the Vermont statute.

Treasurer

Chip nominated Dan. Lenice seconded. Passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting

Some discussion on the need to write by-laws and approve them. Also the procedure for increasing the number of board members from 7 to 9. Claude proposed to defer action to the next meeting.

Fiscal Year

Claude moved that the fiscal year run from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Chip seconded. Passed unanimously.

Robert's Rules of Order

Claude moved that the REDI district meeting be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Lenice seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussion

Some expressed concern about the formality of the Robert's Rules, for example that there can be no debate or discussion unless there is a motion on the floor. Claude suggested that we could continue open discussion as we have in the past and impose the Rules more strictly if "things got out of hand."

Vermont Open Meeting Law

The statute requires that the REDI meeting be conducted under this law, so no vote is needed.

Address for Federal ID, etc.

Rick Hausmann moved that the REDI district address be that of the chair. Chip seconded. Passed unanimously.

Definition of quorum

Chip moved that a quorum should be defined as 50% of the board members. Jim seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussion

In the case of the current board size (7), 50% quorum would require that 4 members be present. If the board is expanded of 9 members, the quorum would be 5.

Transaction of Business

Claude moved that all motions require a majority of board members present to pass. Lenice seconded. Passed unanimously.

By-laws Committee

Claude moved that the By-laws Committee be comprised of the 4 officers. Chip seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discussion

A date for the first meeting of the By-laws Committee would be set at the next REDI district meeting.

Last Mile Policy

There was a discussion of how to define the point at which the "main line" ended and the "individual run" to a house was to begin. Currently the proposal is that REDI would fund the "individual run" up to 300 ft. Longer individual runs would be the responsibility of the subscriber. The discussion is complicated by power company right-of-ways, splice locations, etc. and Claude tabled the discussion to future meetings.

Eric Law Meeting

An account was given of a meeting with Eric Law from USDA. Involvement of Senators Sanders and Leahy and Representative Welch was discussed. The congress people apparently have some knowledge of the REDI district already. Various funding organizations and contact names were suggested (NCIC - Northern Community Investment Corporation, Green Mountain Economic Development, Public Utility Commission), (Eric Kendrick, Clay Purvis, Jim Porter, Mike Welch, Bob Haynes). Possible meetings to be pursued by board members familiar with these organizations/people.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward P. Childs, Jr.