

Present

Members: Liane Allen, Chip Conquest, Dan Burwinkle (left 5:48 pm), Claude Phipps, Ed Childs, Brad Vietje

Guests: Rick Hausman

1 Updates to agenda:

1. Add discussion of H513
2. Add discussion of Publicity

2 Guests

Rick Hausman (left at 5:32 PM)

3 Note taker:

Liane (today 5/29), Chip 6/10, Lenice 6/24, Ed 7/8, Rick 7/22

4 Approval of minutes

4/22: No corrections, Approved

5/13: No corrections, Approved

5 Treasurer's Report

Balance 3565.76. No outstanding obligations

6 Clerk's report

Nothing to report

7 Corinth group

- Sen. McDonald thought Topsham Tel is unlikely to be a good option, EC Fiber more likely
- 3 options:
 - encourage EC Fiber
 - form a district similar to Newbury REDI district to get fiber up, then have EC fiber run it
 - form a community union district, Corinth, Topsham, Groton, Washington, etc. to try to create an ISP along the lines of EC Fiber.

8 Meeting reports

none scheduled

9 NBRC grant

Submitted by Ed, May 10. Report by Ed, any questions?

None

10 Subcommittee reports

a. Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI):

i: CCI future meeting; scheduled meeting?

ii: Contract for Engineering Study, version 3.1: Copies sent to CCI and Alma, Jim, Barlow

Jim Barlow's response suggested eliminate town, Sue Polan said nope, must have town.

See Barlow Email (3 entities now in the contract, instead of 2). Revised version = OK

according to Sue Plan as long as the town continues to make payments.

Revision CCI's right of way changes a LOT, due to law that turns items in right of way into town property.

Deliverables change - delivered to REDINet, not town.

Proprietary info significantly affected by public records act, CCI will have to apply for an exemption for any proprietary info that should not be public.

Strengthen the paragraph regarding the sample packages, for minimum as specified in the document of intent. Add DOI as attachment. To allow us to apply for loans under H513, the system needs to be capable of speeds of 100Mbps symmetrical (either put this in the DOI, or put it directly into the marked-up contract, Dan to send the exact wording.)

Update date in contract term to "8 weeks from contract signing date" instead of July 31, 2019.

Will the town bill REDINet for Jim Barlow's time? Does this contract review increase town expenses?

b. Technology

c. Finance

i USDA grant: nothing additional about awards notice

ii Think Vermont Innovation Grant: signed contract, lots of fine print. There was some confusion re: insurance: we were granted a waiver, but it was not listed in the document.

iii: NBRC Grant: Submitted May 10

iv: Possible future donation contacts

d. Publicity:

August 10, 2019: W. Newbury Parade. In past, we've participated with banner in the parade, and tabling.

Claude proposed doing so again, this year.

Liane Moved, Ed Seconded,

Vote: Motion Passed

11 Consultant:

Contacts; Request for Proposals, Discuss draft,

No progress on draft, yet.

Perhaps use Chris Campbell's proposal as a framework for the RFP?

a. Chris Campbell of Tilson Tech

- b. Sherry McCuller of Magellan Advisors (recommended by Birnbaum, Chris advises against Magellan)
- c. Carol Monroe with ValleyNet
- d. Interisle Consulting Group
- e. Michael Birnbaum with Kingdom Fiber (not available)
- f. Rubin Bennet in Barre

Should we have 2 consultants? One for tech side, one for other efforts.

- Chris indicates he can do both.
- Magellan may also be able to handle both.

12 Future concerns:

If CCI shares ... (copy from existing) ... Universality and affordability (Rick).

13 Other business

- To explore: can we leverage power co. backhaul? Ed will follow up. This may be an option for the consultant to include.

- New board member recruitment:
 - Bonnie not certain, dates suggested so far don't work,
 - Possibly Erick Volk? Phil Cook?

Legislative report:

H.513: Big picture -

Provides money is for VEDA to backstop loans for community efforts. The VEDA many basically acts as a guarantee, reducing risk, to make it easier for communities and groups to get bigger loans at favorable rates.

Provides for a person who can be a liaison between groups and state government, giving some guidance and info on regulations, etc.

Provides some funding for groups to develop plans for broadband.

Funds to study feasibility to do broadband over electrical utility infrastructure.

A small amount for Think Vt Innovation Grant for consultants (only 45k for all groups)

Governor is expected to sign. Goes into effect on passage, but loan availability may be a different date.

14 Next Redi Meeting:

Monday, June 10, 2019, Space on Main, 4:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm

Submitted: Liane Allen, board member, 5/29/2019