

# NEWBURY TELECOMMUNICATIONS RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT.

Monday, March 25, 2019

4:30 PM, Space on Main

## Minutes

Board members present: Brad V., Dan B., Ed C., Claude P., Ken R.

Guests present: Rick H. Begin 4:40. Adjourn 5:45.

### **1. Updates to Agenda:**

Claude would like talk about the business-plan consultant.

### **2. Note taker:** Ken 3/25, (Rick 4/08, Ed 4/22, Lenice 5/13, Liane 5/29, Chip 6/10)

### **3. Approval of Minutes:** (March 11, 2018)

Approved.

### **4. Treasurers Report:** Balance \$2865.76. No other obligations.

Accepted.

### **5. Clerk's Report:** SAMS? *Discussion not recorded.*

### **6. Upcoming meetings:**

Jeff Austin in touch.

### **7. Corinth Group:**

Claude is glad of WEC declaration of intention to move ahead. Ed is puzzled that GMP isn't interested, given what Christine Hallquist proposed. But Rick's meeting with Brian Otley revealed too many corporate difficulties and an inappropriate operational model. "We're chartered to focus on renewable energy." WEC will take a long time however, years not months, in Ed's view. So, we'll keep following this.

### **8. Meeting reports:**

### **9. Sub-Committee Reports:**

#### **a. Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI):**

- I. **Jeff Austin email:** 1/10/2019, 2/10/2019, **3/13/2019**. Analysis of letter. Some confusion about coverage, now clarified. Discussion is of fiber to the pole, not fiber to the house. Discussion of how to break down payments to and from CCI. Claude wants a letter saying REDInet will pay CCI 10,000.
- II. Claude shows chart of payments and grants. Discussion of matching monies. Need more donations, another \$700 (tax deductible, sort of, and 50 percent refundable). Already have contributions from Labun, Lea, Kidder (don't ask again). Specifically, not a request of REDInet board members. Claude distributes donation forms.
- III. Chip reports by email on moving legislation out of committee for \$1.54 million in broadband monies
- IV. Chesterfield, N. H.: Claude: seems to be proceeding with a broadband partner as we would like to, except that their fundraising is a municipal bond. The technical model seems similar. No need for an RFP, in our case, or maybe so for a business consultant. Rick talked to someone at EC Fiber who might be a candidate for us. Dan suggests Reuben Bennet in Barre Town as a resource. Ed mentions a certain Tilson cited at a WEC meeting.
- V. CCI future meeting; scheduled meeting?

**b. Technology** Claude would like Dan and Nate to look at the Chesterfield proposal from a technical viewpoint.

#### **c. Finance**

- I. USDA grant due (Susi Poland) March 29. No need to start with a new grant application – we can re-submit most of last year’s grant package. Claude has told them we’ll be shovel-ready by the end of this year.
- II. Rick: Why don’t we apply to Northern Borders? Everybody’s saying that will be a good well to dip into. Dan: The \$15,000 we’re contemplating seems enough for the business plan. Claude feels we shouldn’t apply for additional money, but we could send a letter of intent in case we don’t get the USDA grant, and should make that clear in the letter.
- III. ThinkVermont grant. We have one more form to fill out, but we will get the grant. Insurance
- IV. questions.

**d. Publicity:**

**10. Document of Intent:**

**11. Chesterfield NH project:** Discussion of CCI proposal shared by Brad R. (3/15/ email). *See 9a.iv*

**12. Future Concerns:** If CCI shares in equity, will they add \$1 mil (Nate)? We will not skim off the profits. Universality and affordability (Rick). *Not discussed.*

**13. Other Business:** Dan very unhappy with downtime of our website. Discussion. Claude points out that a lot more people will be logging on as we proceed, so we need to fix it. Dan will continue to investigate.

**14. Next REDI meeting:** April 8, 2019, Monday, Space on Main, 4:30 PM