

NEWBURY TELECOMMUNICATIONS RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT.

Monday, August 26, 2019

4:30 PM, Space on Main

Agenda Newbury REDInet Meeting

1. **Updates to Agenda:** None
2. **Board Members Present:** Claude Phipps, Chair; Lenice Ciccini, Co-chair; Liane Allen, Chip Conquest, Ed Childs, Brad Vietje
3. **Guests:** Bonnie Taylor, Mike Gaiss, Rick Hausman
4. **Note taker:** **Liane 8/26**, (Lenice 9/9, Ed 9/23, Rick 10/14, Chip 10/28)
5. **Approval of Minutes:** (July 8, 22, August 12, 2019)
Change required: In the long discussion about Consolidated contract, Claude to add "and the Document of Intent," since both were discussed and the context is needed for the notes to make sense.
6. **Treasurers Report:** Balance \$11,681.76
7. **Clerk's Report:**
8. **Board member VOTE** Lenice moves to submit Bonnie Taylor's name to selectboard to fill the space vacated by Ken Rower's resignation. Seconded: Brad, Board vote: Unanimous in favor.
9. **Meeting reports:** W. Newbury parade
Participated with banner and booth. Lots of clapping as banner passed.
Community Feedback: People would like to see regular listserv posts - who and what we are, what has happened recently.
Liane to add updates as important things happen.
10. **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI):**
CCI may have changed its name for VT: Consolidated Communications of VT Company, Inc.
 - i. **CCI future meeting;** scheduled meeting?
 - ii. **Contract for Engineering Study, version 4.1:** received proposal 8/6
Some updates from CCI, Claude has requested a phone call to be able to get a sign-able version of the document finalized and sent to us and get clarity on whether any of the changes would have any costs to us.
 - iii. **NDA with CCI,** Town approval 7/10; Received by CCI.
 - b. **Technology:** Google group name?
Tabled until Dan returns
 - c. **Finance:**
 - i. **USDA Grant:** various closing documents. Discuss USDA *Letter of Conditions*. New budget submitted 8/9.
Granted \$19k of \$20k requested. Sue Pollan will schedule a signing ceremony.
 - ii. **VEDA Loans: Chip**
These are implementation loans for broadband networks that meet certain standards (basically: fiber). Must be able to offer 100/100

broadband. Will be funded by bonds issued by VEDA. Leg. included some backstop funding to offset any losses VEDA might hit.

No more info than previously available. \$10 mil available, up to \$4m/loan. Application form may not even be ready yet. Chip called last week to find out what they're looking for in a business plan. Apparently, site doesn't work because there's no data because they're not finished with the applications. Was expecting electronic docs today, but not received yet. There should be significant competition, but we're not behind the 8-ball on applying.

Interesting note: Ag agency is somehow involved.

Be ready to move as soon as the door opens. Public service dept will have a person to work with groups, offering technical assistance, which may or may not include helping to create a business plan.

Loan payment deferment will depend on business plan. 5 yr with 15yr amortization. Sounds like balloon loan requiring either a large repayment in year 5, or refinancing at that point.

iii. **Broadband Innovation Grants**

Letter indicating that we're interested - Ed's will stand, and suffices for the Sept 5 deadline.

Sept 12: must specify our questions, on Sept 19, they'll respond. Needs to be emailed to specified address.

Q: Define underserved? Would you define it as x% of customers receiving y bandwidth.

Q: What are you looking for for the bandwidth "need"? Dictated by the VEDA loan spec? (100/100).

Board homework: Go through the doc, share questions and requests for clarification with the rest of the board via the mailing list, prepare to define the question list at the next meeting.

Quorum will be very important at this meeting.

iv. **Possible future donation contacts:** Ron Vaughan, Marvin Harrison, Frank Tegethoff, Richard Boch, Richard Waterhouse:

d. **Publicity:** LOGO

Can we use the background from site? (Liane to get the bg image from web site to Lenice)

Liane to post to Newbury listserve

Should we hold a booth at Goodbye Summer/Hello Fall festival? (No one is able to commit, so no.)

Should there be a contest for the logo? It might be good marketing as well as

getting us a logo? Would Robert be willing to talk with the high school's art teacher? Is there a graphic design teacher? Chip will ask John Munson if it might be something the school would be interested in

11. Review Document of Intent:

12. Consultant: Contacts; Request for Proposals,

- a. Chris Campbell of Tilson Tech
- b. Sherry McCuller of Magellan Advisors
- c. Carol Monroe with ValleyNet
- d. Interisle Consulting Group
- e. Michael Birnbaum with Kingdom Fiber (Not available)
- f. Rubin Bennet in Barre
- g. Vantage Point Solutions, MD

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

14. Other Business:

15. Next REDI meeting: Monday, September 9, 2019, Space on Main, 4:30 PM

Submitted: Claude Phipps, Chair, 8/24/2019