

**LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING AND GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
November 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

Chart of Actions

Who	What	Status
Lea	Reach out to Matrix and amend agreement	Done
Lea	Complete application for Round 2 of Connected communities program	Done

Town Representatives and Alternates Attending (V=present and voting; P=present)

Town	P/V	Representative	P/V	Alternate	P/V	Alternate
Cambridge	V	Tim Humphrey	P	Sam Lotto	-	-
Hyde Park	V	Michael Rooney	P	Jack Wool	-	Carol Fano
Johnson	V	Charlotte Reber	-	Doug Molde	P	Paul Warden
Morristown	V	Jane Campbell	P	John Meyer	-	Carl Fortune
Waterville	V	Jeff Tilton	P	Lucy Rogers	-	-
Belvidere	P	Carol Caldwell Edmonds	V	Kipp Verner	-	-
Eden	-	Liza Jones	-	Stephanie Van Blunk	-	-

Also attending

Larry Lackey (Treasurer), Lea Kilvadyova (Clerk), Leo Clark, Stephen Friedman

Public Hearing on the Proposed 2021 Budget

Chair Michael Rooney opened the Public Hearing at 7:01. Lea Kilvadyova offered to review the annual report and asked if there were questions about the report. No questions were raised, and the hearing moved onto a presentation of the 2021 budget. Larry Lackey presented. Leo Clark asked to clarify whether the 2020 budget was approved. Lea Kilvadyova stated that the Board approved the 2020 budget at the October 28th meeting. Absent further questions, Michael Rooney closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on a motion by Kipp Verner and a second by Jane Campbell. All voted yes and the motion passed.

Call to order, Changes to the agenda, Public comment

Vice chair Jeff Tilton called the Governing Board meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Lea suggested adding an action relating to Rounds 1 and 2 of the Connected Communities Program. No public comment.

2021 Budget Adoption

Jane Campbell moved to adopt the 2021 budget as presented at the public hearing. Kipp Verner seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Review meeting minutes from Oct 28 and Nov 4 (Action)

Jane Campbell moved to accept both sets of minutes as submitted. Charlotte Reber seconded. All voted in favor, motion passed.

Rounds 1 and 2 grant applications to Connected Communities Program

Lea Kilvadyova said that the grant agreement for Round 1 of the Connected Communities Program states that “The recipient will notify the State within 14 days if their project deviates more than 15% from the budget submitted.” This clause provides an avenue for LFCUD to move 5.5K to pole assessment without having to notify the State.

Jane Campbell moved to increase the Pole Assessment budget item by \$5,500, amend the agreement with Matrix accordingly, and authorize Chair or Vice-Chair to sign the agreement. Tim Humphrey seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Marketing & Communications Committee developed ideas and finalized project proposals for Round 2 of the Connected Communities grant program application. At this time, the viable and ready-to-go projects are:

- Lamoille North Supervisory Union - purchase of 50 mi-fi units with three months of service) \$9,750
- Lamoille South Supervisory Union - reimbursement for a purchase of cell phones for students \$10,240
- Front Porch Forum county-wide posting (2 posts/months for 6 months. Note: We cannot purchase less than six months at a time) \$1,680
- Stowe Free Library wi-fi hotspot (equipment purchase and installation) \$2,500
- Morristown Centennial Library wi-fi hotspot (equipment purchase and installation) \$2,500

TOTAL: \$26,670

If more ideas become viable soon, we can submit an additional application.

Jane Campbell moved to submit an application (or applications) for the “ready-to-go” projects as determined by Marketing and Communications Committee members, authorize chair or Vice-Chair to sign the agreement, and authorize Chair or Vice-Chair to develop subgrant agreements with project beneficiaries. Tim Humphrey seconded. All voted yes and the motion passed.

Broadband Feasibility Study Discussion

The Board packet included a list of take away points from the feasibility study presentation by Tilson and a list of follow up action. At the meeting, the Board offered additional thoughts:

- The financing structure proposed for Lamoille FiberNet differs from the financing structure utilized by EC Fiber.
- Our 2021 budget anticipated applying for a VEDA loan. This pursuit deviates from the feasibility study recommendations.

- Lamoille FiberNet functions in a competitive environment. Actions by providers resulting from the RDOF auction or other competitive efforts will change our landscape.
- In developing the business plan, we will need to understand in which areas take rates are most likely to be the highest.
- A pre-subscription campaign would help our strategy for moving ahead.
- Next actions should include a completion of the business plan and an outreach to Stowe about joining Lamoille FiberNet.

Adjourn

Tim Humphrey moved to adjourn at 8:30. Kipp Verner seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.