



April 7, 2021 Executive Committee
Location: Via Zoom, 7:00 pm
Meeting Minutes – Approved
4/21/2021

7:03 Jeff called to order

7:06 Michael joined.

Changes to agenda: Executive Session discussion of potential grant applications and partners, to be discussed after outreach.

Roll call: Jane Campbell, Jeff Tilton, Doug Molde, Michael Rooney, Larry Lackey, Teelah Hall (guest), Lucy Rogers (guest), Paul Warden (guest), Christine Hallquist (guest)

Consent agenda: Jane moved, Doug seconded to approve minutes from 3/17/21, with a correction of the typo with Stephen Friedman's name. Unanimous in favor, no abstentions. Decision to discuss updates separately.

Selectboard outreach:

Jane discussed the possibility of asking Selectboards to keep CUDs in mind with federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Some of the smaller towns specifically might be looking for ideas of where to spend the money if they don't have water or sewer needs. On the flip side, if the state sends a lot of ARPA funds to CUDs, maybe asking Selectboards isn't necessary. The question is whether to give Selectboards a heads-up on Lamoille FiberNet potential needs, or be hands off? Jane recommended going to the Selectboards to give them a heads up. Doug updated that the initial heads-up already took place in Johnson, but maybe we could follow up with a more specific project. Michael updated that the initial heads-up had taken place in Hyde Park as well. Lucy gave a brief update on ARPA funds.

Jane moved, Michael seconded, to recommend to board members to give Selectboards a heads-up that we would like to be kept in mind as they discuss ARPA funds. Passed unanimously, no abstentions.

Updates:

- Christine: testimony in the Senate Finance went well today.
- Michael: concern that Senate Finance is thinking of partnerships as between CUDs and large organizations, rather than CUDs and small ISPs. He is also concerned about their preference for loans rather than grants. There seemed to be some opinions on the committee that CCI, Comcast, etc. should get grants too, if CUDs get grants.

- Jane: LCPC took up the USDA RDBG grant that Lea and Jane had been working on and submitted it 3/31/21; this would help with mapping and strategic plan. Christine submitted NBRC letter of interest, which would help fund construction of one area — both grants are in the Dropbox folder. RISI has started their work, NDA with RISI is approved.
- Larry: RISI will have a written assessment of the first two tasks on our list within two weeks; one of the tasks is a review of the Tilson business plan. Also, Larry and Christine are working on a contract for Christine. She has already started and will be paid for her time. Larry was unclear who was authorized to sign the agreement.
- Christine: Her main expertise is GIS. Next level of skills needed after her will be engineering/design/technical skills.

Jane moved; Michael seconded, to allow Larry to sign the agreement with Christine as per the previous fee structure discussed. Passed unanimously, no abstentions.

7:35 Executive session: Jane moved, Michael seconded to enter executive session because premature public knowledge would place Lamoille FiberNet at a disadvantage in terms of contracts, per 1VSA 313. Motion included that the Executive session shall include all present. Passed unanimously, no abstentions. Entered executive session.

8:00 Return to public meeting: Jane moved, Michael seconded that Larry and Christine work on putting out an RFI. Passed unanimously, no abstentions.

8:01 meeting adjourned: Jane moved; Michael seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously, no abstentions.