

LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
June 29, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
SPECIAL MEETING
Online Virtual Meeting Only
DRAFT MINUTES

7:00 pm Call to Order & Roll Call: The Chair called the meeting to order then called the roll by town. Members present and voting were as follows:

Town Representatives and Alternates Attending
(V=Present and Voting, P=Present, A=Absent)

Town	P/V	Representative	P/V	Alternate	P/V	Second Alternate
Belvidere	V	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds				
Cambridge	V	Sam Lotto	A	Teelah Hall		
Eden	A		A	Freeda Powers		
Elmore	A	Brian Evans-Mongeon	A	Hans de Boer	V	Randy Tomlin
Hyde Park	V	Michael Rooney	P	Carol Fano	A	Jack Wool
Johnson	V	Charlotte Reber	P	Paul Warden		
Morristown	V	Jane Campbell	P	John Meyer		
Stowe	V	Stephen Friedman	A	Scott Weathers		
Waterville	V	Jeff Tilton	A	Lucy Rogers		
Wolcott	A	Bruce Wheeler	A	Mike Davidson		

Other Lamoille FiberNet attendees: Val Davis, Lisa Birmingham

Public/Guests: None

7:02 pm Agenda Changes & Public Comment: No changes to the agenda. No public comment.

7:03 pm Carol Fano joined the meeting.

7:03 pm PTF Recommendation on RFP Responses: Sam Lotto recapped the RFP process which began in May and resulted in four responses, ranging from national firms to smaller firms. Supplemental responses were requested and completed by three finalists. Sam informed the Board that after in-depth review and deliberations, the Partnership Task Force recommends that LFCUD enter into a contract with NRTC, National Rural Telecommunications Council. He noted NRTC's

extensive rural broadband experience, experience in Vermont, longevity, track record, and engineering expertise in addition to the other selection criteria. Sam noted that NRTC will have dedicated engineering and project experts and will subcontract the construction labor. Assuming the final due diligence is satisfactory, and labor is available, Sam said the LFCUD could anticipate stringing fiber in Q3 of this year.

The Chair opened the floor for questions. Carol Caldwell Edmonds asked how selecting NRTC would impact the Google Fiber agreement. Val answered that NRTC is ISP agnostic, meaning they will meet our requirements and build the network in such a way that an ISP of any kind could run on our network.

There was a brief discussion about entering executive session to discuss Google Fiber. Val recommended that the Board have a vote on the PTF's recommendation in open session, and if questions not pertaining to NRTC needed to be addressed, then executive session could be considered.

Michael Rooney moved that Val and the Partnership Task Force finish negotiations to be our design build vendor. Randy Tomlin seconded the motion. The chair called for discussion. Members briefly discussed the depth of the supplemental responses, then discussed whether to parse the motion into two segments first, selecting the vendor and second, authorizing to complete negotiations.

Members then discussed whether the CUD could or should reopen the RFP if negotiations were not successful, and whether to make that contingency part of the motion. Some members favored restarting the bid process, others favored turning to the existing bidders. Questions regarding Vermont's RFP procedural requirements were asked, and comments to improve future RFPS were offered. Val and Sam expressed hope that negotiations would be successful, and Jeff Tilton questioned whether the Board had to decide on such a contingency tonight. The discussion on process and prospective delays continued.

The Chair called the vote restating the motion as moved by Michael Rooney and seconded by Randy Tomlin as follows: Having Val and the Partnership Task Force select NRTC as the winning bidder for the RFP and enter into negotiations with NRTC to be our design build vendor. And if the negotiations are successful, then award NRTC the contract to be our design build vendor. All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

Charlotte Reber, Sam Lotto and Jane thanked the PTF for their hard work.

7:38 pm Wrap Up and Next Steps: Sam Lotto reminded the group of the change in the PTF's meeting schedule to the first and third Monday, except for next week, which would be Wednesday July 6 because of the holiday. Michael Rooney moved to adjourn; Sam Lotto seconded. All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

Val noted for the record, that this was the most momentous decision so far. And on that note, the meeting adjourned.

7:40 pm Adjourned.

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