



LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Draft Minutes

7:00 pm Call to Order, Roll Call. The Chair called the meeting to order and called the roll. Present members included: Jane Campbell, Stephen Friedman, Jeff Tilton, Randy Tomlin, Paul Warden, and Treasurer Mark Schilling. Members Michael Rooney and Teelah Hall were not present at roll call. Staff present were Val Davis, Fabian Bourgeois, and Lisa Birmingham.

7:02 pm Agenda Changes. The Chair requested asked to add a discussion on ARPA VCBB/Town matching program. It was agreed to discuss as during the Executive Director update.

7:02 pm Public Comment: No public comment.

7:03 pm Approval of October 19, 2022 Minutes. Jeff Tilton moved, and Randy Tomlin seconded, approval of the October 19 minutes. The Chair noted a few typos and a correction that Sam Lotto not Mark Schilling suggested meeting in person. Hearing no further discussion, the committee unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

7:04 pm Business Plan, Act 71 Grant Application, NRTC Contract and RFP Updates and Timelines. Val reported that NRTC attorneys are reviewing the proposed contract changes recommended by our attorney, and that the RFP had been published. Val reminded the committee of the RFP timeline for questions and answers, and final submissions on December 16.

7:07 pm Michael Rooney joined the meeting.

7:07 pm Val recommended going into executive session to discuss potential adjustments to the confidential business plan and the universal service plan based on Fabian's work. Val also discussed the timing and logistics of the Act 71 grant process, including the prescreen process, and VCBB invitation.

Stephen Friedman moved to enter executive session to discuss matters related to the business plan and grant application, the premature disclosure of which would put the CUD at a competitive disadvantage; and that in that executive session should be the Chair, Jane Campbell, Randy Tomlin, Michael Rooney, Lisa Birmingham, Val Davis, Jeff Tilton, Mark Schilling, and Fabian Bourgeois. Paul Warden seconded. The Chair called the vote; all in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

7:39 pm Executive Session Ended. No action needs to be taken as a result of executive session.

7:39 pm Financial Updates. The Chair thanked the Treasurer for the report, including the check detail,

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then called for questions and discussion. Hearing none, the Chair moved to the next agenda item .

7:40 pm Executive Director Update. Val updated the committee on the availability of VCBB matching program for town ARPA dollars. Unlike Act 71 funds, towns ARPA dollars can be used to for broadband more generally, including drops for already served locations. The committee discussed whether and how the CUD should approach member communities for support and the timeline for commitments and spending the funds. Funding easements, nonstandard drops, and rewiring MDUs and supporting connectivity for low-income housing and community anchor institutions were ideas discussed.

Michael Rooney recommended that Board members attend Town meetings with Val. Paul Warden noted the importance of educating towns about the costs of buildout and limitations on funds. Stephen Friedman recommended that the CUD be prepared with specifics of why additional funds are needed, how they can be used and also sharing our business plan to further explain the costs and value of specific examples.

The committee then discussed the timing of approaching towns. Stephen noted that it's an opportunity if done right. Randy Tomlin agreed that outreach was appropriate and recommended preparing a communication. Jane recapped the consensus favoring outreach to towns for matching funds and requested a motion. Paul Warden moved that the Board authorize Val to proceed to contact towns to explain the framework and encourage towns to help by leveraging the VCBB match program, and ask the marketing committee to assist. .Randy Tomlin seconded. Jeff Tilton commented that the Marketing Committee would assist. The Chair called the vote; all in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

7:59 pm Executive Session, Personnel Matters. Jeff Tilton moved to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters that would place the public body or person involved at a disadvantage. Included in that meeting and that in that executive session should be the Chair, Jane Campbell, Randy Tomlin, Michael Rooney, Val Davis, Jeff Tilton, and Mark Schilling.

8:10 pm Executive Session Ended. No action needs to be taken as a result of executive session.

8:10 pm Wrap Up and Adjournment. Randy Tomlin moved to adjourn; Jeff Tilton seconded. The Chair called the vote; all in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

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