



Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District
Governing Board Meeting
May 24, 2023
Meeting by Video Conference ONLY

7:02 pm Call to Order. Chair Jeff Tilton called the meeting to order, then called the roll.

7:02 pm Roll Call

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	P	Matthew McCabe		
Eden	A	Carey Earle				
Elmore	V	Randy Tomlin				
Hyde Park	V	Michael Rooney	P	Carol Fano	A	Jack Wool
Johnson	V	Paul Warden	P	Jeff Bickford (joined 7:06)		
Morristown	V	Jane Campbell	A	John Meyer		
Stowe	V	Stephen Friedman				
Waterville	P	Jeff Tilton	V	Scott Johnson		
Wolcott	V	Andrew Ross	A	Bradley Horstman		

Other Lamoille FiberNet attendees: Lisa Birmingham, Fabian Bourgeois

Public/Guests: Erik Garr, Consolidated Communications

7:01 pm Agenda Changes. Andrew Ross moved to add a discussion of a professional service contract to the executive session, which was scheduled to discuss contract negotiations. Randy Tomin seconded. Hearing no discussion, the Chair called the vote. All in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

7:05 pm Paul Warden introduced and welcomed Jeff Bickford, newly appointed Johnson alternate, who was joining his first meeting.

7:06 pm Public Comment. No public comment.

7:07 pm ISP Partnership Update and Introductions. Noting the recent execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Consolidated Communications, PTF Chair Randy Tomlin welcomed Erik Garr, Managing Director of Consolidated Communications, and asked Erik to give the Board an introduction and overview of his experience and Consolidated fiber investments. Erik provided a brief overview of his telecommunications career including both the FCC and Google Fiber, then provided an update of Fidium Fiber and Consolidated, noting leadership changes, significant infrastructure investment commitments, including public private partnerships in multiple New England states. He discussed commitments and improvements in customer service and provided an overview of products and services.

The Chair opened it up for questions. Members asked, and Erik answered, questions about symmetrical speed offerings, teaser rates and pricing strategies, workforce availability and the use of contractors, the incremental Vermont jobs versus contractors, the difference between DSL and Fidium and customer experience trends.

The Chair and members thanked Erik for his time.

7:35 pm Erik Left the meeting.

7:36 pm Treasurer's Report and Update. Mark Schilling was not in attendance but had provided a written report; Lisa noted that the auditor had begun requesting documentation, and that Mark and she were working with the contractor to produce the requested information. She also noted that with the audit underway, Mark had agreed to take a more active role in coordinating information with Nicole and the auditor .

7:38 pm Executive Director Update. Lisa noted that she had responded to the Workers Compensation Audit request on May 23, and was expecting to file the Local ARPA Match Request with the VCBB before the end of May, and expected a response by VCBB staff in June. She also noted that she spoke with Rob Vietzke of VCUDA, and he was happy to welcome our members for various VCUDA committees. Finally, she informed members that the VCBB would be drafting a 5-year broadband and digital equity plan, and hosting listening sessions around the state. Lisa encouraged members to participate in the stakeholder sessions in their communities, and she would share the schedules when they become available.

7:43 pm Contract Negotiations. Randy Tomlin informed the Board that there was nothing to be discussed in public, and made a motion to move into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with CCI, contracting for building, operations, and ISP and maintenance services. And, per Andy's request, the retention of legal counsel to review those contracts, because the premature knowledge of which would be detrimental to our CUD. And in that session should include Andrew Ross, Carol Caldwell-Edmonds, Carol Fano, Jane Campbell, Jeff Bickford, Jeff Tilton, Matthew McCabe, Michael Rooney, Paul Warden, Sam Lotto, Scott Johnson, Stephen Friedman, Randy Tomlin from the Board, and from staff, Lisa Birmingham and Fabian Bourgeois, and if any members come in late during the executive session from the board, they would be allowed in. Michael Rooney seconded. The Chair opened for discussion. Andy Ross asked to

amend the motion to revise the request from discussing legal counsel to discussing the details of enforcement and performance issues related to a contract that we have with one of our contractors. Jeff asked, and Randy answered that the request was a friendly amendment. The Chair called the vote. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

8:40 pm Executive Session ended. No action was needed due to executive session.

8:40 pm Marketing and Communications Committee Update. Jane had three updates. First, she recommended that people look at the new website and reported that Four Nine was going to provide additional training for those working on the backend. She applauded Jeff Tilton for his heavy lift moving the project along and launching the new site.

Second, Jane summarized the partnership outreach plan which would initially focus on local stakeholder outreach to update our selectboards and legislators on the MOU, then a louder effort once a signed contract is in place. Talking points and FAQs would be shared with everyone for their use, but not external distribution. If people had questions, they could contact Lisa or Jane.

Third and finally, Jane informed the Board that with all the activity planned for the summer and fall, the marketing committee agreed that we needed to expand our public presence and support social media and website content. To that end, the committee was looking for a summer and maybe even a fall intern to help with that. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds had been taking the lead on those materials and the part-time intern was already included in the 2023 budget. Carol confirmed it was a paid internship.

The chair asked if there were any questions. Members asked about how the local outreach was going to be coordinated and shared with members who were not attending tonight's meeting. Jane explained that she was preparing a list of outreach assignments by town and follow up materials for all. Members asked how much detail would be available and when to ask their selectboards for formal support. Carol explained that right now the focus is on sharing that we have chosen an ISP partner, and when we have all the details worked out, we will share details. Paul Warden focused on the need to keep our selectboards informed, and in time, ask for their support. Lisa offered to distribute draft letters of support for interested communities.

8:55 pm Approval Items – Retention Policy and May 9 Minutes. After a brief discussion of the retention policy versus retention procedures, Sam Lotto moved to approve the records management and retention policy as well as the May minutes. Jane seconded. The Chair opened for discussion. Sam Lotto requested that the PTF matrix in the minutes reflect Randy Tomlin as Chair, and Sam Lotto as a member. The Chair called the vote for approving both with that one edit. All were in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

8:59 pm Wrap Up. Seeing no additional items on the agenda, the Chair called for wrap up; Stephen moved to adjourn; Paul Warden seconded. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

8:59 pm Meeting Adjourned.

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