



Governing Board Meeting
January 24, 2024, 7 PM
Meeting by Video Conference ONLY
Approved 02-28-2024

7:01 pm Call to Order and Roll Call: Jeff Tilton called the meeting to order.

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

Town	P/V	Representative	P/V	Alternate
Belvidere	V	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds		
Cambridge	V	Sam Lotto	P	Matthew McCabe
Eden	V	Carey Earle		
Elmore	V	Randy Tomlin		
Hyde Park	V	Michael Rooney	P	Carol Fano
Johnson	V	Paul Warden		
Morristown	V	John Meyer		
Stowe	V	Stephen Friedman		
Waterville	V	Scott Johnson		
Wolcott	V	Andrew Ross		

Other Lamoille FiberNet attendees: Lisa Birmingham, ED; Fabian Bourgeois, Construction Engineer; Mark Schilling, Ex-Officio, Treasurer

Public/Guests: none

7:04 Agenda Changes – Lisa Birmingham requested to add a discussion about pole permitting under new business.

7:04 Public Comment – none

7:05 Welcome and Upcoming

Jeff Tilton welcomes everyone and says that the biggest update is the signing of the contract with CCI. He mentions that we have our financial operations taskforce and sustainability task force putting in a lot of work, and that we'll have a full document with recommendations for February from the financial operations taskforce.

7:07 Treasurer's Report

Mark Schillings reviews cashflow and says that we've submitted and paid all invoices for the 2023 budget year and are now working with the accountant to finalize the financial report. He has developed a template our year-end financial calculations that's based on the financial statements that were in our final audits last year.

7:29 Marketing Committee Update

Carol Caldwell-Edmonds just recommends that when we talk to community members, that we focus on Lamoille Fibernet and not other parties out there. If they ask about other ISPs, we need to refer them and not speak on their behalf. Lisa Birmingham also says she will send a revised link around on the press release and noted it is in SharePoint as well.

7:34 Executive Director & Construction Update

Lisa says that now that Phase I is funded we need to move on to Phase II, scoping it out and getting it funded by the end of this year. She talked about the need to address off grid addresses which is a BEAD requirement, and determining if there are additional addresses that we need to scope. We don't have answers on that yet. Fabian shared his screen and walked us through the "ride outs" that he's been doing in our service area, specifically showing us phase II and areas where there has been build out and none at all. He noted that since the article went out in Front Porch Forum that he's had over 60 requests for address verification. Fabian also said that we can expect final design re: towns that will be built in Phase I by mid-April.

Lisa also calls out that Hyde Park, Cambridge and Belvidere were the three communities who said to use funds for long-drops or need-based issues whereas the other towns were unrestricted, so we need a working group to figure out how to track that. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds is willing to work on that. Lisa will send out email after the meeting about getting a working group together on this.

Vermont Business magazine is profiling Lamoille County and Lisa was interviewed – basically a preview of our press release.

Lisa provided an overview of a MOU on the table regarding an extension of streamlined pole permitting and make-ready for CUDs in the territory of Green Mountain Power.

Paul Warden moved to authorize Lisa to sign the MOU to extend the agreement with Green Mountain Power regarding pole permitting and make ready for CUDs. Michael Rooney seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

7:58 Approval of minutes from last meeting

Stephen Friedman moved to approve the proofed December minutes as presented in the Board packet, Paul Warden seconded, motion passed unanimously.

8:02 Next Agenda

Discussion about the overallocation to NEK that affects Wolcott, Elmore, Hyde Park and Morrisville. We are waiting for an answer from VCBB which should happen next week. At next meeting, we'll have updates from task forces, and it will be on February 28th. Marketing Committee and Executive Committee are both meeting on February 14th.

8:12 Wrap Up and Adjournment

Randy Tomlin moved to adjourn, Michael Rooney seconded, motion passed unanimously.