



Executive Finance Committee Meeting

November 6, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Location: Virtual Only

DRAFT MINUTES

7:05pm- Call to Order: Jeff Tilton called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Committee Members Attending

(V=Present and Voting, P=Present, A=Absent)

P/V	Committee Member
P/V	Jeff Tilton, Chair
P/V	Andrew Ross, Vice Chair
P/V	Jane Campbell
P/V	Stephen Friedman
P/V	Paul Warden
P	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds
P	Sam Lotto
A	Colette Jurnak, Treasurer (ex officio)

Other Lamoille FiberNet attendees: None

Public/Guests: None

Agenda Changes: None.

Public Comment: None

Chair's Update: Installation complaints have escalated, most frequently no call/no shows. Follow-up with Sarah tomorrow at the regular CCI meeting. Anecdotally Jeff received a call from CCI with an update on his install.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Jane moved to approve the October 16, 2024 minutes of the Executive and Finance Committee with a correction (under Drop Task Force Discussion to include "all 10 towns in our district" in providing drop assistance). Paul seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update and Preliminary Treasurer Report: Collette will have an update at the GB meeting next week. She is unable to attend this evening.

Phase 1 Construction and P2 Design Update: Eden install is slowing down with fewer road crews. Jeff, Stephen, and Andy will follow-up with CCI at the Thursday meeting.

Phase 1 Installs

The CCI team will ask for additional and improved communication at the regular Thursday meeting. Digsafe adds additional complexity since they are 2-3 weeks out at best. The discussion covered multiple examples and that there is competition in Cambridge and Stowe from Stowe Communications, so business is potentially being lost. Examples are no call/no show, incorrect information, unclear and inaccurate process steps for the customer to get installs. These are both for more complex installs with buried fiber, or if plant needs to be carried further up the line (or times when an install is a two (or more) step process, as well as appointment hygiene.

To summarize: It is a big problem, it is being addressed with CCI, and we hope and expect to have their plan of action by the end of the week to report out at the GB meeting next week.

Drop Task Force Discussion: Sam and Carol are attending to discuss the Drop Task Force update. Sam and team are vetting the data currently. Some people are coming off, while some are getting added, particularly for Scenario 3 (Scenario 3 is where install is greater than 500 feet and financial support is requested).

The spreadsheet of survey responses was reviewed at a high level. There will be bad news to some folks, as funding is less than demand requires. The committee is making some direct contact with survey respondents. Some have already been installed, while some haven't (e.g., list hygiene).

High-Level Process: This process is fully documented by the Long Drop Task Force outside of these minutes.

Selection criteria: A drop longer than 500' that needs underground conduit, and the town had contributed ARPA funds to LFCUD. Note that having a long drop doesn't mean that a resident is unserved.

Value: We will determine the amount that the homeowner is eligible for, by dividing the amount of money by universe of homeowners.

Required Customer Actions

If going to get the work done, they need to do that themselves, calling Fidium initially to confirm that the drop requires the customer to take action. The customer would then call DigSafe, get a contractor, keep their receipts, and show that they are a Fidium customer as a result. We can give them the knowns, such as how many people need money, and equally distribute the money amongst the requesters.

There are instances where some technicians are saying that 1.5" conduit should be sufficient, including water pipe in some instances. These may be one-offs, so not something we should push with CCI.

Additional Considerations

- What to do with leftover money, if there is any for a particular town. Three basic options exist:
 - a. Redistribute it to those that paid in excess
 - b. Increase the Selection Criteria to served
 - c. Save the money for a future need (e.g., escrow-type arrangement)

- The committee feels that Option C is preferred for its simplicity and to accommodate future situations.
 - If a customer doesn't sign-up but requests to in the future, there is no guarantee that these funds will still be available at that time.
- How do we handle sharing money that is derived from the construction phase running under budget
 - Elmore, Stowe, and Morrisville would be eligible for these funds, as they are not ARPA funds (these towns did not contribute their ARPA funds to LFCUD)

Next Steps

- Sam and Carol will update their documentation based on the discussion, distribute it to the full EFC for comment, and update accordingly for the Governing Board meeting.

Communications Update: Jane reviewed that a post on the RFQs on the website, and a post on the grant administrator. We are fielding many customer service issues that Fidium should be handling. Will review the Gig Reveal event and re-emphasize contacting Fidium with questions.

Upcoming Posts

- Post of Thank You to Lisa
- Long drop awareness post
- Update website to pivot to contact Fidium
- News & Citizen did a front-page story on the Gig Reveal

Other Business: Stephen identified that there are addresses that were originally in Phase 2, but were organically funded by CCI, so they were not on the Phase 1 application, and they weren't on the Phase 2 amendment since they were already served. These addresses cannot use long drop addresses because they were never granted funded. The EFC should investigate how to leverage money that is currently excluded to support these addresses.

8:55 Adjourn: Paul moved and Jane seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Ross.

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