



**Governing Board Meeting
December 11, at 5:00 pm
Village Tavern, Jeffersonville
Location: In person and Virtual
Draft Minutes**

5:14 pm Call to Order: Jeff Tilton called the meeting to order.

Committee Members 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	A	Matt McCabe
Eden	V	Carey Earle		
Elmore	A	Trevor Braun		
Hyde Park	V	Carol Fano		
Johnson	V	Paul Warden	A	Mark Woodward
Morristown	V	Jane Campbell	P	John Meyer
Stowe	P	Stephen Friedman	V	John Woods
Waterville	V	Jeff Tilton	P	Scott Johnson
Wolcott	V	Andrew Ross		

Other Lamoille FiberNet attendees: Lisa Birmingham

Public/Guests: none

5:16 Agenda Changes. There are no changes to the agenda.

5:17 Public Comment. There is no public comment.

5:18 Financial Update to Treasurers Report

There is nothing to approve in the report at this time. We have a final audit with no findings. The preparation for the 2025 budget is most important to review. The EFC audit is extended until the Friday before MLK.

5:20 Review of Budget

2024 administrative budget is on forecast. With the construction budget, we are landing \$1.5 million less than where we thought we would be, and this money will be used for long drop funding for grant addresses. Lisa reviewed the Phase 1 Construction budget that was approved in 2023 and Phase 1 revised Nov 2024 and Proposed 2025 Budget all in. There was discussion around marketing and communications budget and whether it will be enough for increased communication. No changes to be made at this time.

5:48 Motion: 2025 Budget

Jane Campbell moved that the board adopt the 2025 Operating and Construction budgets as presented, totaling \$3,483,271. Andrew Ross seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

5:49 Long Drop Overview. Lisa Birmingham explained that in November we approved a plan to spend local ARPA money that was different than advertised and we put off “clear and consistent” communication until later. Now, in December, we will need to approve the update and clarification of the scope, criteria and deadlines for the long drop policy. The VCBB grant can only be used on unserved and underserved and incidental addresses. The local ARPA from the towns is unrestricted. It can be spent on other addresses. People need to apply by the deadline so we don’t have a service back-up. Morristown, Stowe and Elmore can participate with the other seven towns. There will be a dedicated local Fidium team handling this so need to manage customer expectations and promote it to our constituents. Will be important to communicate the deadline. There was discussion about moving the Phase I USP deadline beyond 3/31/2025. It was stated that we don’t have to decide the deadline tonight.

6:23 Motion: Long Drop Policy Revision

Jane Campbell moved that the board approve the updated Long Drop Program as presented, except for the deadlines for the original phase 1 and phase 2 deadline contingent upon final approval from CCI and legal counsel. The revised scope and clarifications may supersede the plan approved at the November board meeting. Sam Lotto seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

6:25 Communications Update from Carol Caldwell-Edmonds

She told people to look at the recent posts and said the team is currently working on general info on long drops with more details on long drops to come in January. She added that the newsletter can be used to blast emails re: long drops. She called attention to new items on the website and updated info around contact us and volunteering.

Jeff Tilton confirmed that the next meeting is 4th week of January, and we'll discuss if meetings should be monthly or should shift to quarterly meetings.

6:27 Approval of November meeting minutes

Jane Campbell moved to approve the minutes from November 13th, 2024 with the change that the audit is complete. Sam Lotto seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6:28 Wrap Up and Adjournment

Jeff Tilton moved to adjourn, there was a shared seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

