



February 26, 2019 Governing Board Meeting (rescheduled from  
February 12 due to weather)  
Middlesex Town Hall  
5 Church Street, Middlesex, VT

**Present: Governing Board Delegates:** Chris Riddell (Barre City), Jeremy Hansen (Chair, Berlin), Andrew Gilbert (Cabot), David Healy (Calais), Bob Klein (East Montpelier), Jim Barlow-arrived at 6:35 (Marshfield), Phil Hyjek-arrived at 6:30 (Vice Chair, Middlesex), Ken Jones-arrived at 7:10 (Montpelier for Dan Jones), Siobhan Perricone (Orange), Michael Birnbaum (Plainfield), Frank Moore (Williamstown), Allen Gilbert (Worcester); **Alternates:** Jerry Diamantides (Berlin), Rama Schneider (Williamstown), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier); **Other Officers:** Becca Schrader (Clerk and Treasurer); **Other Attendees:** Chris Lynch (Matrix Design Group), Barry Bernstein (Washington Electric Cooperative-WEC), Mary Just Skinner (WEC), Sherry McCuller (Magellan), Stephen Knowlton (WEC – attending remotely), ORCA camera person

**Absent:** Joshua Jarvis (Barre Town), Robert Burley (Elmore), Dan Jones (Montpelier), John Quinn (Northfield), Jon Guiffre (Roxbury)

## Minutes

### 1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Hansen at 6:02 PM, and quorum was determined.

### 2. Additions or changes to the agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

### 3. Public comment

Hansen introduced Frank Moore, the new delegate for Williamstown. Introductions were done around the table. Schneider is now first alternate for Williamstown. Gilbert (Worcester) asked if this would be the best time in the agenda to share public comment delegates have received from their towns and Hansen said yes it would. Gilbert noted that since the article that stated we might have our first customers online by the end of 2019, there has been a great deal of interest.

Hansen also asked if there was anyone willing to write an article for The Bridge about connectivity and its effect on real estate values. Healy and Schrader will write the article.

**4. Woodbury petition to join CVFiber**

Hansen shared that he had attended a Selectboard meeting in Woodbury and they were now petitioning CVFiber to join the membership.

ACTION: Motion from Healy to accept petition for membership from Woodbury, second from Gibert (Cabot). The vote in favor was unanimous, motion carries.

Woodbury has already named their delegate, Skip Lindsay.

**5. Treasurer's Report, Becca Schrader**

As of February 25, CVFiber had \$5,320.63 in its checking account and \$25.00 in its savings account. To date, all revenue has been from donations totaling \$5,386.69. Expenses are \$41.06 of online fees for our online fundraising platform.

**6. Sherry McCuller, Magellan Advisors**

McCuller gave a presentation on Magellan's services and projects, and what they might be able to offer CVFiber.

**7. Chris Lynch, Matrix Design Group**

Lynch distributed a pamphlet on available services, including design/build and management. Designed and built out first 9 towns for ECFiber, and managed for first 3 years. Also building out 4 towns for Burlington Telecom.

**8. Business Development Committee report, Jerry Diamantides, Chair**

Jones provided information on Innovation grant, Northern Borders, VEDA bond issue and other pending legislative issues. Healy discussed the draft survey that was sent out. It is residential focused, would need to be versioned for businesses (both home based and commercial facilities) and municipalities.

#### **9. WEC, State House, and USDA meeting reports**

Bernstein (WEC) gave an update. 8 members/mile and large senior population. WEC voted at last board meeting to help find grant funding, but needs to be careful with cross-subsidizing conflicts. Testified before House Energy Committee on H95 and proposed \$75,000 for WEC for related project such as feasibility study. Manager is resistant, but Bernstein feels this is a necessary direction.

CVFiber has been invited to testify on pending legislation. One topic of discussion was service standards, as they had minimums of 4/1 or 8/1, Jeremy pushed for 100/100, but settled at 25/3. Connectivity Fund is more for people have no service at all (last mile). At 25/3, DSL would not qualify. Proposed one-time general fund transfer to fund feasibility and projects. Pole access and make ready requirements are also addressed. Senate Finance Committee may vote out as soon as next week.

#### **10. Advocacy and policy at the State House**

This item was included in #9.

#### **11. Review of back burner items, committee assignments and membership**

Fisher suggested we add equipment standards to the back burner.

ACTION: Motion by Hansen, second by Birnbaum to appoint Frank Moore to Policy and Bylaws Committee. Vote in favor was unanimous with one abstention, motion carried.

#### **12. Approval of January 8 meeting minutes**

Motion from Healy, second by Hyjek to approve minutes as submitted, vote was unanimous, motion carried.

#### **13. Roundtable**

Jones encouraged the board to think about policy for areas that have cable coverage. Several members submitted reports to their town annual reports.

#### **14. Adjourn**

On a motion from Hansen, with a second from Birnbaum, the group voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 PM.