



Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Berlin Elementary School
372 Paine Turnpike N, Berlin, Vermont
6:00pm, April 9, 2019

Present: Governing Board delegates: Michael Birnbaum (Plainfield), Philip Hyjek (Middlesex), Bob Burley (Elmore), Andrew Gilbert (Cabot), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin), David Healy (Calais), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier), Skip Lindsay (Woodbury); Governing Board alternates: Jerry Diamantides (Berlin), Jonathan Williams (Marshfield; attended via skype), Tom McMurdo (East Montpelier), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), Jared Thomas (Calais), Ken Jones (Montpelier); Public attendee: Barry Bernstein, WEC President, ORCA cameraperson.

Meeting call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by chair Hansen.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda: Added discussion of finance policy to end of the agenda.

Public Comment: Andrew Gilbert noted that he applied for a Cabot Community Investment Fund grant on behalf of CVFiber in the amount of \$500. Given that some board members are new, everyone present introduced themselves.

ValleyNet meeting, Jeremy Hansen

Hansen related the results of a meeting with ValleyNet, who offered to help CVFiber build a network contiguous with ECFiber's in Roxbury, Williamstown, and/or Northfield using the forthcoming VEDA loan money being discussed in the Legislature. ValleyNet's Stan Williams

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offered to prepare a partial business plan for the network in these towns and that was included in the USDA-RD grant application. Discussion ensued about how that partnership might work.

Northern Border grant application, Jeremy Hansen

Northern Vermont Development Association in the Northeast Kingdom has submitted a letter of intent to apply for NBRC grant money, and would like to invite other entities interested in developing broadband in Vermont to apply jointly for grant money to hire someone to help with the administration of the various efforts. Consensus was that CVFiber should support and/or join the NVDA grant application.

Washington Electric Coop, Barry Bernstein

WEC decided not to move forward with a USDA-RD grant application, but chose to pursue a \$90,000 feasibility study grant via NBRC. They want to keep options open in potential partnerships with CVFiber. Discussion ensued about how and why WEC might build their own fiber network, and how much it might cost.

May 23rd Connectivity Breakfast

Hansen was invited to present CVFiber in Dover, but can't make the date and invited others to contact him if they can go.

USDA-RD Planning Grant, Jerry Diamantides

The application is in, and will have a hard copy delivered to USDA Rural Development April 11th or 12th.

Treasurer's Report

In Treasurer Schrader's absence, Hansen reported. Some issues moving money from the online donation site to the bank account. There is \$4300 in checking and \$2281 in the online donation account.

Committees report back

No committees met and thus have nothing to report.

Review of back burner items, committee assignments & membership

Motion by Hansen/Hyjek to appoint Skip Lindsay to the Business Development Committee. Passed unanimously by roll call. Hansen noted some interest in Waterbury and Duxbury to join CVFiber. A brief discussion ensued about the ideal number of municipalities to be a part of the district.

Finance policy

Rama Schneider was not present to discuss the policy.

Approval of March 12 meeting minutes

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Motion by Hansen/Hyjek to approve the March 12 meeting minutes, changing the amount reported for the ThinkVermont grant from \$12,700 to \$12,500. Motion passed unanimously, with several abstentions from people who were not present.

Roundtable

Ken Jones noted that we should be thinking about what it takes to be competitive in a city like Montpelier. Skip Lindsay asked about whether there was a strategic timeline for CVFiber, and a brief discussion ensued. Michael Birnbaum noted that the VEDA funding contemplated by the Legislature is an important bridge to bond market funding.

Adjournment

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

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