



CV FIBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

GoToMeeting (virtual meeting only)

March 25, 2021

Present:

Committee Members: Jeremy Hansen (Berlin), Chuck Burt (Moretown), David Healy (Calais), Ray Pelletier (Northfield), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield)

Absent: Phil Hyjek (Middlesex)

Others: None

Called to order: 6:01pm by Jeremy Hansen via GoToMeeting

Additions to the agenda:

- Ray Pelletier suggested adding discussion of the May reorganization.

Public comment:

- None.

MOU with ValleyNet

- David Healy reported that he had a meeting with F. X. Flynn and ValleyNet. He said that he thinks that writing the MOU is a bit above him and would like a committee to take it on. They said that they will run it in our name until such time as we have our own ISP to transfer it to. They said that they would use their own rates. David Healy said that he was a bit nervous that they could complete it by the end of the year. Ray Pelletier and Jeremy Hansen suggested asking ValleyNet complete the first draft of the MOU.

Incoming Federal/State funding:

- David Healy reported that people at the State are thinking that the limit for funding availability would be 25/3, but that he wrote an email strongly arguing that the funding should only be for 100/100 service. David Healy also reported that Ken Jones said that the Governor is now referring to the bill as the broadband and cell service bill, which David Healy strongly disagrees with. He thinks that the funding should be for broadband, not cell service. There was broad agreement from the other committee members for this opinion. Jeremy Hansen asked who else we should approach. David Healy said that he thinks that we should send a letter to Ann Cummings.
- Ray Pelletier suggested that we should ask the towns for 10%. Jeremy Hansen suggested that we should reach out to the towns where we are going to build first. Ray Pelletier agreed that we could sell this to

the towns. Ray Pelletier shared a Gantt chart showing a rough estimate of the timing of various tasks. Jeremy Hansen said that he was not sure if the \$400,000 in matching funds from the Department of Public Service would be in our account before August. He thinks that we can use this to nudge the Towns to consider funding us and noted that the towns will be receiving the first half of the funds in 60-days.

- Jeremy Hansen asked what we would do if the select boards ask if they will own the data. Jeremy Hansen suggested that we should tell them that we will give them the data once the project construction is complete. The consensus is that we should reach out to the towns that are in the first project area and see if they would be willing to help fund the pole inventory work.
- Jeremy Matt suggested that we should be very careful about how we describe where in each town we are going to build and that we should come prepared with the percentage of each town that is anticipated to be covered in the Phase I build.
- Ray Pelletier noted that we have heard that Christine Hallquist said that she gets about \$80 in revenue per subscriber and that of that \$45 goes to debt service.

Items from 23 march meeting: pole audit, PM, call for volunteers:

- Ray Pelletier noted that the pole audit will likely contain sensitive information, so that should be moved to the end of the meeting.
- Ray Pelletier shared a document discussing next steps in the search for a new Project Manager. There followed discussion of where we want to market the position and what committees should be doing the work. Ray Pelletier suggested that we should have CVRPC do the work of investigating advertising options. Jeremy Hansen suggested that advertising in VTDigger and 7Days would probably not be worthwhile as he does not think that the sorts of people, we are looking for would be searching the newspaper classified ad section.
- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Jeremy Matt) motion to delegate this task to Chuck Burt (as amended). Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Chuck Burt noted that this would take at least a couple of meetings and wanted to make sure that the Communication Committee members on the call would be up for it.
 - Jeremy Hansen noted that having multiple committee meetings would be time consuming and suggested that to streamline this we could just pay someone a stipend. He then suggested paying Chuck \$100 to do it. Jeremy Matt said that he would agree to this as a friendly amendment. Chuck Burt said that he would just do it pro-bono.

Ray Pelletier noted that this has already been posted on the website, so he thinks it is a done deal. We have been getting some responses.

- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Jeremy Matt) to find that because we are discussing contracts relating to the Pole Inventory RFP, premature public disclosure would put us at competitive disadvantage per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A). Passed unanimously. No discussion.
- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Chuck Burt) To enter executive session. Passed unanimously. No discussion.
 - Enter: 6:58
 - Exit: 7:11
- No action came out of this executive session.

May reorganization

- Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Other items

- Chuck Burt noted that with six members of the committee we need to be very careful about emails to avoid running afoul of open meeting laws. Jeremy Hansen noted that there are seven positions on the committee not six; it is just that two of them are taken up by Phil Hyjek as he is both Vice Chair and Chair of the Policy Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk

Summary of tasks assigned:

Chuck Burt:

- Write ads for the Project Manager position, investigate placement of those ads, and post the ads.

Jeremy Hansen:

- Contact the three selected contractors for the Pole Inventory IDIQ contract.
- Email the potential volunteers identified through the survey.
- Contact the member towns along our proposed Phase I route and propose that they help fund the Pole Inventory effort using the Infrastructure money from the Covid Relief bill

Ray Pelletier:

- Prepare DRAFT MSA, & COI, NDA documents using existing policy documents as templates

David Healy:

- Prepare a DRAFT SOW for the pole inventory work.
- Reach out to Ann Cummings and other appropriate members of the legislature to advocate for focusing State funding on 100/100 broadband rather than on either slower internet technologies or improving cellular service.