



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - approved 9/19/24

Thursday, September 5, 2024

5:30 pm

Attendees:

Executive Committee Members: Sally Vallat, Nick Anzalone, Siobhan Perricone, Chuck Burt, Mary Metcalf, Mike Strait, Brian Machesney, Jeremy Matt, Ray Lanier, Denise Sullivan (Treasurer); Christa Shute (Executive Director)

Governing Board Members: Rudy Chase, Mike Gaiss, Jonathan Baker

Additional Staff: Jennille Smith, Tonya Ozone, Kitty Ufford-Chase, Erik Townsend

Consultants: Deb Shannon

5:34 pm Meeting started with quorum.

Agenda Review

Agenda was approved with the additional agenda item of Pricing Policy update.

Approval of Minutes

Motioned: Sally Vallat Seconded: Mike Strait	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: to approve 8/1/24 minutes	Passed with no objections

Public Comment: None

Partnership Updates

Motioned: Jeremy Matt Seconded: Chuck Burt	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: to go into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with EC Members, Board Members, staff, and consultants, in order to discuss partnership updates, finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be made public at this time.	Passed with no objections

Executive session was entered at 5:43pm and ended at 6:20pm. No action was taken.

Grant Strategy

Motioned: Chuck Burt Seconded: Jeremy Matt	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: to go into Executive Session under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 with EC Members, Board Members, staff, and consultants, in order to discuss grants strategy, finding that premature disclosure could substantially disadvantage the CUD if it were to be made public at this time.	Passed with no objections

Executive session was entered at 6:23 pm and ended at 6:41 pm. No action was taken.

Ray Lanier entered executive session at 6:31pm.

Pricing Policies

Discussion Summary: Tonya introduced three proposed policies having to do with Seasonal, Installation Fees, and Cancellations. These policies have to be finalized by Oct. 10 which is the deadline for rolling out our broadband “nutritional” labels.

Proposed Seasonal Policy: the proposed policy is to have an upfront charge of \$150 to reconnect your service after you pause it as long as you give a date that you want service (and automatic billing) to start up again. If you bundle phone with your internet, you would pay an upfront fee to keep a hold on your phone number. There was discussion around proposing 9 months as the longest time you could pause your service.

Proposed One time Installation Fee of \$99: (CVFiber had a \$99 install fee, but this fee was never charged to any customers), which would cover the first 500 ft of fiber for aerial or construction. Additional feet of fiber would be \$1.75/ft. The CrowdFiber process would have a question about whether the fee would cause a hardship. If the customer answers “yes” then there would be a process to verify their income through partner organizations like NEKCA. Money received from the fee could help cover hardship waivers and long drops. Along with the installation fee would be a system for full-time customer appreciation checks - \$25 after the first two years (24 consecutive months - not seasonal folks), \$50 after the first 5 years and \$100 after the first 10 years. This would be done for all customers, whether they paid for installation or not. BEAD requirements allow for a “reasonable” installation fee, and all of this may have to change if we get BEAD funding.

Proposed Cancellation Policy: a \$300 reconnect fee would be charged if someone wanted to renew service within 24 months. \$300 is only part of the \$2000 cost per address of installing service.

Jonathan Baker left 6:51pm.

Adjourn

Motioned: Mike Strait Seconded: Sally Vallat	Passed with no objections Passed with objections Failed
Motion: To adjourn at 7:04pm.	Passed with no objections

Drafted by Kitty Ufford-Chase

DRAFT