

NEK Community Broadband

Tech Committee Meeting Minutes

June 30th, 2021; 6-7pm

Attendees: Jami Jones (clerk), Noah Armstrong, Shawn Burroughs, Ray Lanier, Mike Gaiss (Governing Board Member)

Agenda Review

Updates-

New Business-

- Physical location of meetings
 - Shawn will investigate what it might take to get a DoNorth location and at other businesses or libraries.
- Review and assign homework for sections of the contract recommendations.
 - Do we want to use existing buildings, new buildings, standardized alarming/monitoring systems, new cabinets? What is the criteria for the ISP partners tech-wise?
 - Existing structures may belong to an ISP or the telephone provider. Some may be smaller than we need.
 - Question (Noah): how much hardware are we housing and are we looking to expand?
 - Where does the NEK find those specs?
 - Noah will ask some people about the specs.
 - Question (Ray): What are the actual differences in cost? Suggestion for standardization.
 - There may be requirements for security and fire-resistance.
 - Ray will get some cost estimations for the different types of buildings that could house the equipment.
 - The servicer may have a set preference for what they are willing to provide. There may be suggestions in the RFP and the Tech Committee is looking at how we can move closer to the NEK CUD preference.
 - Discussion on Alarm and Operational Management systems
 - The CUD would need to integrate into those systems.

- Tech Recommendation: as part of the business plan and contract to require integration into the systems.
 - Equipment Requirements: 1G, 10G, etc?
 - Top vendors are GPON, which can handle the 10G, and is standard, with little difference in pricing.
 - CUD wants to have flexibility to grow in the future which would be 10G symmetrical
 - Tech Recommendation: 10G Symmetrical
 - Back-up Power
 - Hubs are not “power-hungry” facilities. Take into account the benefits of certain fuel cells, such as noise with a generator, maintenance, and fuel to power the back-up.
 - GMP- would be willing to provide pricing for the electrification projects
 - What is environmentally friendly?
 - Shawn will get additional information on what the utilities are recommending for back-ups.
 - Question (Noah): Can municipalities install larger than 20,000 Kilowatts?
 - Answer: only powering battery retention.
 - Solar cells would help you charge a battery, but would not help in the event of extended outages.
 - Question (Shawn): what is the hour back up that we want to provide across the network for the outages?
 - 4-8 hours suggested, most likely to happen on the customer end rather than for the hub.
 - More than 8 hours suggested for the hubs (72 hours)
 - Question (Shawn): Would we also want to provide back-up for customers?
 - Battery Back-up is provided for telephone systems, and units have some form of back-up, exterior or interior.
 - FCC does have some recommendations
 - Discussion on the importance of emergency services having reliable service.
- Bio’s a Pictures for Communication Committee
 - The committee will continue to work on this
- Starlink Survey Update

- Talk of doing a follow-up survey to see what new information or if the network is reliable.
- The tech committee could review the survey and send quick feedback to Mike
- Mike will send the updated survey to Evan.

Other Business-

- Suggestion to visit EC Fiber to see how they are set up
 - Shawn will confer with the Executive Committee to see if it is possible.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn, Ray Lanier

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Jones, NEK Community Broadband Clerk