

NEK Community Broadband

Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes

Sept 4, 2020

Attendees: Evan Carlson, Kristen Fountain, Noah Armstrong, Jonathan Baker, Bill Piper, Mike Strait, Katherine Sims, Nicholas Anzalone, Christine Hallquist.

Evan called the meeting to order at 3:03.

Public Comment

- Connor Casey had a presentation for the committee
 - Last Mile Community Connections, a recently started company
 - Pole Inspection services
 - IBE: Retired electricians might be willing to train
 - \$15 / \$20 per pole surveyed
 - Can start as soon as Oct. 1

Pitch ended at 3:08 pm

Christine's Updates

- Christine gave an update on the insurance for the CUD
 - -VT League of Cities and Towns has agreed to cover us, but a St. Johnsbury firm already confirmed they would
 - -\$1600/yr annually
 - -State requirement for receiving grant money even though we don't have full time employees
- **Bill made a motion to accept the insurance policy recommended by Christine**
- **Evan seconded**
- **The motion carried unanimously**

- 3 current candidates for bookkeeper
- 2 are only available outside of normal business hours

- One person is flexible enough
- Should we flex on meeting times for this hire?

- NA Fiber
 - Clay Purvis was supportive of transferring state fiber assets to the CUDs, but he thinks the commissioner won't agree.
 - There is some pushback from EDA for transferring the Northern Enterprise fiber to the CUD

- Addresses for the GVCN second round have been received and are being reviewed for objections. Watch out for RTO projects.

Finance Update

- Kristen gave an update on the finance committee's policy on policies
 - Adapted from VEC policy
 - Describes the process of developing policies

- Evan mentioned we need an official hiring policy before we hire out first full time employee in Oct
- Evan will be sending out a proposed hiring policy
- The policy on policies was tabled
- The 2021 budget will be presented at the Oct meeting

General Agenda Items

- Tilson is progressing, about to send out field personnel
- Tilson take-rate survey is rolling out next week
- Utilities will be boosting it on social media
- We need to boost it on our website and also social media
- Possible press release

- Evan discussed CCRF funding for one of these projects:
 - -Fixed wireless
 - -10 home FTTH
 - -Or LTE boosters

- **Motion to pick an option to present to the board**
- **Bill made a motion to present Fiber as the 1st build option, Fixed wireless as a backup option**
- **Noah seconded the motion**
- **Motion passed unanimously**

- Discussion about Governing Board agenda items.
- 4:35 - Meeting was adjourned

*Respectfully
submitted,*

*Jonathan, NEK Community Broadband
Executive Committee*