

Decorah MetroNet 28E Board Meeting
August 3, 2017 11:30 a.m.
Decorah City Hall Council Chambers

Minutes

Members attending:

Chad Bird (representing City of Decorah)
Paul Mattson (representing Luther College)
Kurt DeVore (representing Decorah Schools)
Brian Lensch (representing Winneshiek Medical)
Jon Lubke (representing Winneshiek County)

and
Steve Smith (representing Winneshiek County)
Jim Schwan (representing Winneshiek Medical)
Adam Forsyth (representing Luther College)
Chopper Albert (representing City of Decorah)

Members absent:

Leon Griebenow (representing Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission)

Consider approval of August 3, 2017 regular meeting minutes

Motion by Lubke and second by Lensch to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2017 regular meeting
Lensch noted there should be more detail regarding the fiber extensions he has been working on with the ICN. It was noted they would be expanded upon later in this, August 3 meeting. Mattson noted the proposed fiber run to the municipal airport would be at the expense of that project.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.

Consider approval of claims

a. R&S Fiber Services Heivly St fiber cut repairs \$6,192.00

Motion by Mattson and second by Bird to approve claims.

Mattson asked about the entire project costs and also if contact had been made with the contractor involved in the issue. Bird noted the final expenses totaled \$7,617.00 and that contact had been made with the contractor and issues were being negotiated regarding the utility cut.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on 28e agreement amendment / MetroNet membership

There was general conversation by the board regarding this issue. Bird provided a draft exit and amended 28e agreement for review.

It was discussed that there should be a notation regarding the existing financial condition and the proposed exit financial agreement. Bird noted he would speak with the county attorney about this process. For the record, the balance for UERPC is \$51,574.74 and the board has agreed to waive 50% of that amount for a remaining balance payable of \$25,787.37.

It was also discussed that there should be some additional consideration given for the retroactive date. It is currently listed as January 1, 2017. There was concern this would make null and void any possible voted actions. Bird noted he would speak with the county attorney regarding this matter.

Motion by Lubke and second by DeVore to approve the amended exit 28e agreement with the anchor members and calling for an exit of Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding fiber run municipal airport

Bird updated the board on the hangar project and noted a projected cost of the fiber run may be around \$7,500. It included that it is an 850-foot run to the proposed hangar and maintenance facility.

Bird noted he would keep the board informed of any progress.

Discussion on fiber route upgrades / work session on underground versus aerial fiber runs

Lensch noted he and his team at WMC has been working with representatives from the ICN (Iowa Communications Network) regarding additional fiber runs and connections, namely to Calmar to complete a "triangle" section for interconnectivity and redundant paths.

There were questions of ownership and maintenance and the board engaged in general discussion about network expansions. It was also noted a possible network build-out could be by private involvement with lease arrangements. No final determinations had been made.

Lensch and Schwan noted that, on behalf of IRHTP (Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program), they had worked through a submittal of a grant or funding request to USAC (Universal Service Administrative Corporation). Lensch noted the proposal was sent in late June 2017 and was for a ten-strand fiber project.

The board expressed appreciate to Lensch and Schwan for their work in this effort.

Other business

- b. Budget update – no update
- c. E911 update – no update

Mattson provide a brief update regarding the Decorah Telecommunications Commission's fiber feasibility study. He noted the commission recently received a 95% completed study readout and is looking for a final read and presentation to the city council on August 21.

There was no further business before the board.

Adjourn

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 1:24pm with motion and second by Mattson and DeVore respectively.

Respectfully submitted

