

## Chittenden County Communications Union District (CCCUD) Board Meeting

### Governing Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 3:00pm

**Municipal representatives participating:** Mike Vance, Chair, representing Williston, David Solomon, representing Shelburne, Angelike Contis, representing Jericho, Hubie Norton, representing Essex Town, Brad Holden, representing Underhill, and Marta Pauer Tursi, representing Essex Junction

Absent: Julia Andrews, Vice Chair, representing Westford and Tim Barritt, representing South Burlington

**Others present:** Ann Janda, CCRPC Senior Energy Project Manager and CCCUD Clerk, Lee Willette, Mission Broadband, Sarah Davis, Consolidated Communications (arrived at 3:25pm)

1. **Call to order** Mike Vance called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Mike asked to move to other agenda items until Sarah Davis arrives.
2. **Public comment period on items NOT on the agenda** | There was no public comment.

#### 3. Consider approving minutes from April 10, 2023

*Marta Pauer Tursi moved to approve, seconded by Brad Holden. Hubie Norton abstained Motion passed.*

#### 4. Potential executive session to discuss status of draft contract with CCI and next steps

*David Solomon motioned to enter Executive Session as per 30 V.S.A. § 3084 § 3084 confidential business information shall be exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(9). (Added 2021, No. 71, § 11, eff. June 8, 2021.). Seconded by Hubie Norton. Motion passed.*

Entered Executive Session 3:26pm

*Angelike Contis motioned to move out of Executive Session. Seconded by Brad Holden. Motion passed.*

Exited Executive Session 4:10pm

The CCCUD Board will continue to gather information and discuss all options with CCI.

#### 5. Consider discussing a public statement regarding next steps

The Board decided that it was too soon to take up this item and tabled it for now.

#### 6. Clerk's Report

Ann Janda shared that on 4/19 there was a Meeting with Vermont Communications Broadband Board (VCBB) Staff. Attendees were Ann Janda, Mike Vance, Jason Gay (MBI), and Lee Willette (MBI), Alexei Monsarrat (VCBB Staff), Rob Fish (VCBB Staff), and Christine Hallquist (Executive Director of VCBB). The meeting was intended to discuss the CCCUD's concerns signing the construction grant certification obligating it to universal service of the entire district – even

though there is only funding for half - and the obligation to provide oversight until 2034 without funding to do so. VCBB staff felt that the only next step would be for Mike Vance to attend the next VCBB meeting to discuss these concerns with the VCBB.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Ann Janda reviewed the CCCUD's financial statement for March. As of the end of March, 2024, there was \$223,378 remaining in the CCCUD's preconstruction grant funds. Ann expects another invoice from the CCCUD's attorney and MBI soon. David Solomon noted that when the Shelburne ARPA committee allocated \$50K to the CCCUD for start-up costs, it was under the impression that the CCCUD's role was to bring broadband to everyone in the district and now that they know that is not the case, they might like to allocate it elsewhere. Mike Vance shared that he thinks that all the municipalities were led to believe that this program was meant to bring fiber internet to all at no cost and it is understandable that Shelburne might want that \$50K back now that they fully comprehend that only the un and underserved are eligible for public funding (~700 locations in the district). Ann Janda noted that Shelburne's donation of \$50k was very generous and said that the limitations of the funding and the number of locations that were un and underserved was not understood until the CCCUD applied for preconstruction grant funding and a VCBB staff person explained these limitations. She shared that she thinks it is very difficult for lay people to quickly grasp the complexity of broadband and public funding.

*Brad Holden motioned to freeze the \$50k donation from Shelburne until the CCCUD Board votes to use or give back the funds to Shelburne. Seconded by Mike Vance. Motion passed.*

## **8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.**

*Brad Holden motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike Vance. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted, *Ann Janda, Clerk*