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**Southern Tier Network, Inc.
July 8, 2021
Zoom/In-Person Meeting
Board Minutes**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Carl Hayden; Judith McIntosh; Nonie Flynn; Jim Osborn; John Sharkey; Marcia Weber; Jack Wheeler; Tim O’Hearn; Howard Zingler; Aaron Dowd; Alan Eusden; Mark Rogus

Absent: Chelsea Robertson; Dave Hopkins; Steve Wilber

Guests: Fonda Chronis, Schuyler County, Deputy County Administrator

Management: Tony Marzolino, Jeff Gasper, Steve Manning

CALL TO ORDER – the meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by chair Marcia Weber.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 10, 2021 board meeting were approved on a motion by Jim Osborn, seconded by Judy McIntosh, and carried.

2. Strategic Planning Committee – The board discussed the NTIA grant submittal and other funding possibilities. John Sharkey outlined the next steps in proving the value of an investment in broadband to the unserved and underserved in Steuben County. Jack Wheeler offered to convene the appropriate group to get that done. Steve Manning discussed the benefits of designing this project as an open access model. Mark Rogus said the project is in line with STN’s mission. Tim O’Hearn commented that Schuyler County would be interested in participating if the project were to involve the western part of Schuyler. Aaron Dowd said the executive team in Chemung County concluded that with the expansion over the last 14 months by Spectrum, Chemung County by and large is served. Aaron noted that probably 89-90% of the county is covered. There are just small pockets in Chemung County where broadband is lacking. Aaron outlined possible ways of funding builds to those pockets using county and municipal ARPA funds.

3. Governance Committee Report—Marcia reported that STN has hired an Outside Plant Engineer, Ben Rydzewski, who will start work at STN in July. Steve discussed Ben’s background. The board discussed steps involved in new staff joining the organization.

4. Sales & Marketing Report--On a motion duly made (Osborn/Eusden) and carried, at 10:30 AM the board went into **executive session** for discussion of contractual, financial, and customer-specific information.

On a motion duly made (Osborn/Sharkey) and carried, at 10:45 AM the board came out of **executive session with no action being taken.**

5. **Other** - Board members agreed that unless a crisis arose, the August STN board meeting is cancelled.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – The next STN board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

ADJOURN – On a motion duly made (Osborn/Sharkey) and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Manning
CEO, STN