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**Southern Tier Network, Inc.
December 9, 2021
Zoom/In-Person Meeting
Board Minutes**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Carl Hayden; Steve Wilber; Nonie Flynn; John Sharkey; Marcia Weber; Tim O'Hearn; Howard Zingler; Mark Rogus; Chelsea Robertson; Alan Eusden

Absent: Judy McIntosh, Jim Osborn, Jack Wheeler, Aaron Dowd, Dave Hopkins

Guests: Fonda Chronis, Schuyler County, Deputy County Administrator

Management: Tony Marzolino, Jeff Gasper, Ben Rydzewski, 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 November 10, 2021 board meeting were approved on a motion by Tim O'Hearn, seconded by John Sharkey, and carried.

2. Outside Plant Report

Ben Rydzewski reported results of outside plant infrastructure audits performed during the month of November and the recommended maintenance work. Ben also reported on actions taken to address fiber supply shortages.

On a motion duly made (Robertson/Eusden) and carried, at 10:12 AM the board went into **executive session** for discussion of contractual, financial, and customer-specific information in the areas of sales and marketing and governance.

On a motion duly made (Eusden/Rogus) and carried, at 10:58 AM the board came out of **executive session with no action being taken.**

3. Finance Committee Report

Mark Rogus and Tony Marzolino provided a summary report of the modified 2022 budget. They reviewed the significant updates and discussed the associated rationale. Mark commented on revenue generation as being a major focus for STN in 2022.

4. **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Report**

The strategic planning committee will be discussing internet service providers and their interest in the open access model and fiber to the home.

Chelsea reported the announcement for NTIA applications was pushed out by NTIA until the end of February 2022. The agency was overwhelmed by the number of applications received in the last round; the total of the funding requests was 10 times the amount of grant funds available. USDA ReConnect Round III Applications were released November 24, 2021; application submission date is February 22, 2022. A discussion on grantswriting and possible consultants followed.

5. **Other**

Chelsea reported that the Town of Caton and the Town of Lindley ARC wireless grant was awarded for \$1 million. The Town of Caton is the applicant. No STN match is required; the match was provided by Steuben County, the Community Foundation, and the two involved Towns. STC and STN will provide assistance. ARC official notification and a press release is forthcoming. Chelsea stated that STC will schedule overview meetings with the partners.

Marcia recognized and thanked Tim O'Hearn for his years of service with Schuyler County and as a founding member of the Southern Tier Network, Inc. Tim plans on retiring at the end of this calendar year.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – The next STN board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022.

ADJOURN – On a motion duly made (Tim O'Hearn/Chelsea Robertson) and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Manning
CEO, STN