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**Southern Tier Network, Inc.
September 8, 2022
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person/Zoom Meeting
Board Minutes**

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Aaron Dowd, Alan Eusden, Winona Flynn, Carl Hayden, David Hopkins, Judy McIntosh, Jim Osborn, Chelsea Robertson, Mark Rogus, John Sharkey, Marcia Weber, Jack Wheeler, Howard Zingler

Excused: Stephen Wilber

Management:, Jeff Gasper, Tony Marzolino

CALL TO ORDER – the meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by chair Marcia Weber.

1. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by John Sharkey, seconded by Chelsea Robertson, and carried.

2. Staffing Update

Jeff Gasper reported that STN has hired an Outside Plant Engineering Manager. The start date is September 19, 2022. Jeff is currently entertaining applications for the Sales and Marketing Manager.

3. EDA Project Contractor Approval

Southern Tier Network received 3 proposals from interested and qualified fiber-optic construction companies to construct 88 miles of fiber-optic network to complete STN's Network Diversity project with the EDA. On a motion by Carl Hayden, seconded by Jack Wheeler, and carried, STN will accept the bid from Empire State Communications.

4. Outside Plant Report

Jeff Gasper on behalf of Ben Rydzewski, who is out in the field today, reviewed the Outside Plant Report that was emailed prior to the board meeting. Jeff applauded Ben for all his work the last few weeks in getting the Nichols project up and running and keeping things on track.

Jeff updated the board on the outages for June, July, and August.

5. Empire Services Transition

Jeff reported that STN is ending its relationship with Empire. Empire will fulfill its obligations to STN. The board discussed this at length.

6. Finance Committee Report

Tony Marzolino reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed the P&L and financials. Tony discussed them with the board.

7. Governance Committee Report

Jeff Gasper provided the board with a summary of the Governance Committee meeting that was held prior to the board meeting.

8. Grant Funding Discussion

Jeff Gasper provided the board with a summary of the NTIA Middle Mile Grant project. On a motion by John Sharkey, seconded by Jim Osborn, and carried, the STN management team will proceed with STN submitting an NTIA Middle Mile Grant application.

9. Next Board Meeting

The next STN board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022.

ADJOURN –the meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Gasper
CEO