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Southern Tier Network, Inc.
October 13, 2022
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person/Zoom Meeting
Board Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Winona Flynn, Carl Hayden, Judy McIntosh, Jim Osborn, Chelsea Robertson, Mark Rogus, John Sharkey, Marcia Weber, Stephen Wilber, Howard Zingler, Fonda Chronis

Excused: Aaron Dowd, Alan Eusden, Jack Wheeler, David Hopkins

Management: Jeff Gasper, Tony Marzolino, Pat Miller, Ben Rydzewski,

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 September 8, 2022 meeting were approved on a motion by Carl Hayden, seconded by John Sharkey, and carried.

2. Staffing Update

Jeff Gasper introduced Patrick Miller, who has been working for STN for a month as the Outside Plant Engineer Manager. Jeff also described how the Operations team members have been working together on projects and complementing each other in their roles. Jeff is currently accepting applications for the Sales and Marketing Manager.

3. Outside Plant Report & ConnectALL Nichols FTTH Update

The Outside Plant Report that was emailed prior to the board meeting was discussed. Jeff and Ben provided the board with updates on the Nichols FTTH project, which was the first of the projects working with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and funded with NYS dollars to have paying customers online. There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the open access non-profit model. Also discussed were upcoming construction phases.

4. Empire Services Transition

Jeff Gasper provided the board with an update on all the transition items and timelines.

5. Grant Funding Discussion

Jeff Gasper provided the board with a summary of the NTIA Middle Mile Grant application that was submitted on September 30th.

Jeff discussed with the board the NYPA-ConnectAll request for a list of additional potential markets for FTTH projects in 2023. STN Management is working with the Counties to identify areas of need on which STN can focus. Board members suggested areas of need with which they were familiar.

6. Wholesale Lit Services RFI

Jeff Gasper summarized the follow up efforts to the Strategic Planning Committee’s meetings in late 2021 and 2022 during which the subject of wholesale lit services was discussed.

The board was in favor of STN Management proceeding with the development and release of a Request for Information (RFI) to gather information needed for the services and revenue modeling that the Strategic Planning Committee tasked the Management team with during the last meeting.

7. Executive Session

The board entered executive session on a motion by John Sharkey, seconded by Chelsea Robertson, and carried. The board exited executive session on a motion by Chelsea Robertson, seconded by Jim Osborn, and carried. No actions were taken.

8. Next Board Meeting

The next STN board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022.

ADJOURN –the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM on a motion by Carl Hayden, seconded by John Sharkey, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Gasper
CEO