

Minutes, Virtual Meeting of the MINET Board of Directors, May 26, 2021, 5 PM

In attendance:

Board Members, present: David Ritchey, Marty Wine, Robert Mason (Interim City Manager, Independence), Chris Lopez, Tom Takacs. Board members not present: Marty Wine, Michael Hicks.

Staff Present: PJ Armstrong, John Cooper, Dakota Snow, Jason Saunders

Guests Present: Attorney Chad Stokes, Anne Scheck (Trammart News)

Recording: Marilyn Morton

Chair David Ritchey **opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.**

Public Comment: None

Consent Agenda: April 2022 Meeting Minutes: **Bob Mason moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting, David Ritchey seconded, motion passed unanimously.**

Financial Report: John Cooper

John presented April financials saying it was a good month. There were no questions following his presentation.

Sales, Marketing, CSS report: Jason Saunders

Jason shared numbers for April, and a video that will be aimed at Rickreall residents and businesses. The video will be shown at both theaters in Polk County, on social media, websites, and other agencies as available. Funding for creation of the video came from both WVF and MINET, but not from Polk County as their grant is specific to network building.

Operations: Dakota Snow

Dakota reported that all mapped locations for the MINET Free Wi-Fi services are operational. Each user is limited to a 20 Mbps for 2 hours per visit. Sites are protected from tampering and vandalism. A copy of mapped locations will be provided to the BOD. There was no information available on whether 2-hour time-limit is in line with Indy's free wi-fi.

A 21-22 project was better cable management. Supplies have been gathered allowing for better protection and easier growth.

Maintenance is coming up that will insure peak performance and better customer notification when necessary.

Field Operations Report: PJ Armstrong

The outside plant projects are up to speed and focusing on annual inspections, line health, and proper operation for both MINET and WVF. We are working on vegetation management and assessing squirrel access.

GM Report: PJ Armstrong

Expansion updates:

The consultant working with WVF and AFO will be replaced as of 7-31-22. Discussions will continue on original project timelines and delays due to contractors and COVID. The new consultant will continue to receive reports from MINET/WVF.

The map for MINET's free wi-fi service will be publicized. The strategy of site location was discussed. Other site locations could include Cherry Lane Park, Winegar Park and Pfaff Park. Public notices will go out next week via the website and social media. MINET is planning a 30-day test and review period, then expand notice distribution.

BOD requested packets of information for presentation to council and customers. Discussion continued about what to include in packets. Chad Stokes will review. Discussion also about moving currently un-used Independence sites to more viable locations, and the status of agreements with Central School District, if any. Reports on free wi-fi sites will be on BOD agendas going forward. In response to a question concerning tracking customer gain due to knowledge of free wi-fi in community, Jason said word of mouth and dissatisfaction with non-MINET services are current drivers. Information can be collected about free wi-fi.

Falls City Feasibility Study is nearly complete. PJ and Jason manned a booth at a Falls City event and are planning to do so again on June 4. That will be the last effort for collecting completed surveys.

Rickreall: Chad and PJ are working on formal construction documents.

South Dallas: PJ shared a screen shot to show new areas and how they will be phased. Polk County Commissioners suggested phasing and are in agreement. No cost assessments have changed. Chad explained how specifics are being adjusted, and that agreements will be drawn for the best safety of all parties. All terms are the same, just attached exhibits will change to reflect phasing. Chad noted that Pacificcorp has easements to all poles even if there is property-owner resistance to access.

Question was raised: Does BOD need to approve each phase? **Consensus, BOD trusts the staff to more forward without further BOD input on phasing.**

BOD reported the feedback from groups working with MINET is excellent. Kudos to Dakota too. Good service is good advertising.

GM Search: Bob Mason

The open position closes Friday, 5/27 and 5 PM. 6 applications have been received. BOD wishes to move forward without Doug Dawson's input, as current pool can be screened by Bob, Marty and David. Is anything needed to release Doug Dawson? Chad will check and take care of release. Bob reported that \$566.23 was spent on the GM search.

Question raised about any public rules to follow re hiring a GM? Chad said the BOD decides who to hire and no additional notification is needed.

Franchise/IDA:

Bob reported that both documents were returned by the Indy attorney, and he observed no substantive change. Chad asked for a copy to review before it goes to Council; Bob will forward it.

Next meeting:

June 22, 5 PM. John said there will also be a budget hearing. Next meeting will also include elections for new President, Vice President, and Secretary, whose 2-year terms are up on 6/30/22. **David adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.**