

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the MINET Board of Directors, March 24, 2021, 4:30 PM

In attendance:

Board Members, present: David Ritchey, Marty Wine, Chris Lopez, Robert Mason, Michael Hicks, Tom Takacs

Not present: None

Staff Present: PJ Armstrong, John Cooper, Dakota Snow

Guests Present: Attorney Chad Stokes, Anne Scheck

Recording: Marilyn Morton

Chair David Ritchey opened the meeting at 4:32 PM.

Public comment

Anne Scheck was thankful for being in the meeting, and for nobody wearing masks.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the February 24th meeting. Small edits were discussed. **Bob Mason moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Marty Wine 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.**

Financial Report – John Cooper

John presented financial reports for February which was a typical month.

John was asked to reiterate what constitutes the amounts reports on the WVF contributions report.

John stated that barring unforeseen problems, the full 2022-2023 fiscal year debt service would be covered 100% by MINET operating funds. He is also working on a advance note consolidation plan which would be vetted by the City Finance Directors. The finalized plan will come to the BOD well before December 1, 2022, with a proposed plan for MINET's repayment of promissory notes to the cities.

John responded to questions that a plan is tentatively to be presented at the July BOD meeting and is unsure at this time if there will be multiple options for consideration.

Sales/Marketing/CSS Report - PJ Armstrong on Jason Saunders behalf

PJ reported on current monthly sales number. PJ shared the social media recommendations for Dallas internet providers which was dominated by WVF recommendations.

The new billboard design was presented.

There was BOD discussion on MINET's current bilingual services and if they can be expected? PJ will discuss with Jason Saunders and revisit at the next meeting.

Network Operations Report – Dakota Snow

Dakota reported that the CapEx project of reconfiguring and labeling of GPON cabling was performed.

DIA upstream provider had notified MINET of a planned maintenance outage for which MINETs redundancy capabilities created a seamless transition that was not noticed by customers.

The migration to Voyant phone systems should be at 50% complete by next week.

MINET is not reaching the ceiling for its DIA capacity. XGPON is the central office upgrade of the future.

GM Comments:

The Voyant transition is having minimal fallout which has been easily remedied. MINET will be starting the more complicated transition for our business customers soon.

Field Operations/ GM Report

PJ Armstrong reported that Falls City feasibility surveys are being marketed in coordination with Polk County. Engineers will be assisting consultants in Falls City to assess their infrastructure needs.

The Rickreall expansion is being prepared for very rapidly. Walkthrough for Polk County Fairgrounds was successfully completed. All buildings currently unserved will be served with full MINET coverage.

Engineering for SW Dallas will be started very soon but are working out some timeline issues. The scope of work will be completed in conjunction with that engineering.

Discussion followed about having an impromptu meeting with the BOD to address expansion terms, and PJ will willingly participate if this is what the BOD decides to do.

Board Discussion Items:

1. BOD meeting time. Survey went out today.
2. General Expansion, Polk County Grant. The GM appreciates the work that Craig Pope and Dean Anderson have done for MINET.
3. GM Search. There is no motion yet, but tomorrow, Marty Wine, Bob Mason, and David Ritchey will be giving more directions to Doug Dawson.

Board Business

Franchise Agreement.

Chad is directed to propose an update agreement and facilitate communication with MINET, the BOD, and the cities.

Updated IGA.

Robert Mason and Marty Wine reviewed Chad's proposed IGA document. 4 or 5 areas need to be discussed. Draft should be ready to present at the next BOD meeting. There was discussion about the IGA bylaws, transparency, and other details.

Consideration of Scheduling Continued Steering Committee Meeting(s). Discussion about the items that were needing to be addressed at these meetings are not necessary at this time. This topic will be removed from future agendas for the foreseeable future.

Chair David Ritchey tentatively set the date of the next meeting for the 4th week of the month, exact day and time to be determined based upon survey results

Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.