

GRANT COUNTY DIGITAL NETWORK COALITION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Becker, Grant County
Josh Walker, Seneca
Brandon Smith, John Day

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Nicholas Green, Executive Director

GUESTS PRESENT

Denise Porter, Long Creek
Nathan McFarland, Grant County
Kenley Boss, John Day

Agenda Item No. 1—Open and Note Attendance

Chair Walker opened the meeting of the Grant County Digital board of directors at 6:00 P.M. He noted all board members were present.

Agenda Item No. 2—Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of September 18 with one correction (Brandon Smith attended in person, not via teleconference). Motion was seconded by Mr. Becker and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 3—Appearance of Interested Citizens

Chair Walker welcomed the audience and asked if there were any agenda items they wished to add.

Agenda Item No. 4—Appointment of At-Large Board Members

The board reviewed the applications for at-large positions. Denise Porter (Long Creek) and Nathan McFarland (Pine Creek area). Board members reviewed the applications and found both candidates were well-qualified for the seats.

Mr. Smith moved to appoint Denise Porter to an at-large board position for a two-year term. Amendment seconded by Mr. Becker and passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith moved to appoint Nathan McFarland to an at-large board position for a two-year term. Mr. Becker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5—Grant County Digital Website Offers

Director Green reviewed the two bids that were submitted for the Grant County Digital website. Chair Walker talked through the board's intent regarding the website. Green then discussed the merits of each proposal, including features and price points. Municode was a bit more competitive on price for both the design and annual support. The board discussed the qualifications of both firms and were pleased with both responses, but noted the Municode proposal was enough for their anticipated needs and would save the board approximately \$15,000 over a ten-year period.

Mr. Becker moved to recommend award to Municode to develop the Grant County Digital website based on the terms and conditions of their proposal. Mr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 6—Co-location Facility and Network Planning Update

Director Green reviewed the co-location facility design at the John Day Fire Hall and the opinions of probable cost (OPCs) for the two lateral spurs from the fire hall, one to the ESD building/high school and the other to the John Day City Hall. He reviewed the route maps for the laterals and the details behind the OPCs. He also showed the board the path through which the fiber would connect to the server room at the fire hall and how the fiber delivery point and crossover distribution switch would work. He noted the proposed laterals would connect about a dozen Critical Community Facilities (CCFs) for about \$100,000, which would be a significant and immediate impact from the network builds. It would also allow for a public safety network with direct fiber connections to these locations that could operate with voice and data even if external connectivity to the main internet were lost. Green described the RFQ approach and that the net cost for the laterals after the interest we earned would be about \$60,000 deducted from the \$1.7M remaining in the IT Fund. Board agreed it would be good to show immediate impact, particularly for the schools. Mr. Smith said he would like to make sure we can tie in to the commercial ISPs so we are not building a "bridge to nowhere" if they didn't or couldn't co-locate for some reason. Green said he has not spoken directly with the private providers about tying into the facility at this point, but that the internet service provider does not have to be Ortelco or CenturyLink. ESD could also provide connectivity to these agencies through their wireless backhaul and in the future the Oregon Fiber Partnership (Oregon's four research universities) could become the internet service provider for these CCFs. We could also buy from any other provider along that route. Becker noted that ESD is the current provider for the schools and for the City and many of the CCFs. Green said if we are providing the infrastructure he would like to see reduced rates from the private sector ISPs since they are not incurring the infrastructure costs for the fiber optic build. Green said he sees a lot of value in doing the RFQ release even ahead of the trunk line to Burns because it will allow us to begin negotiating with the private providers on co-location options. He also said he has spoken with Bruce Patterson, who is willing to come out for the December 18 meeting, and they are willing to talk us through how they connected their 911 center to the school district's camera system. He said he would encourage us to go farther than he did by allowing remote access and remote control of the school cameras. Green informed the board the ESD is also willing to host a backup 911 station at their location, which would give us a redundant point for 911 calls if the fire hall failed for some reason. Chair Walker said he felt it was in line with the board's objectives and would be useful to pursue. There was a consensus from the board to proceed with the field surveying and negotiations with the private sector ISPs and to return at the November board meeting for a decision on the RFQ release.

Agenda Item No. 7—December Town Hall

The board discussed how they would like to structure the town hall meeting for December 18th. Green suggested they should probe the various operating models and how to incentivize private sector providers to be honest about their capabilities and limitations without having to pretend they are competitive when they are not. Can we address the public frustration around the lack of reliable internet from our incumbent provider rather than ignoring it or pretending there aren't structural issues? But he pointed out it is hard to get that kind of honesty in a public forum. Chair Walker said half of the town of Seneca has been out of internet for 35 days and they haven't figured out the problem or how to fix it. The board discussed how to encourage more direct feedback and increase responsiveness from the local service providers. Walker pointed out many Seneca residents are switching to HughesNet. Green noted that Christopher Mitchell is a good moderator and Bruce Patterson is a government employee leading in the public space for community broadband; their participation alongside CenturyLink and the other ISPs that service Grant County would make for an interesting community conversation. Smith noted the last thing we would want to do is have a public forum where the community walks away more confused about our operating model and what we're doing. Green said he would confirm the availability of the external participants prior to the next board meeting.

Agenda Item No. 8—Other Business and Upcoming Meetings

Green suggested we wait until the January board meeting to finalize the mission statement. Walker noted we held off until we had all five board members. Green said he would share the mission statement language with the rest of the board. Mr. McFarland noted that the public agency connectivity role is not captured in the current mission statement. Smith agreed, there are some roles the Agency proposed to fill that aren't contemplated in the mission statement as written. Board agreed to share the link to the current mission statement with the other members.

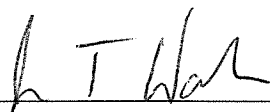
Adjourn

There being no further business before the board, Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 P.M. Mr. Becker seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicholas Green

ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2018



By: Josh Walker, Chair