

QLife Network

QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency

MINUTES

QLife Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2015, Noon
The Dalles City Hall, 313 Court Street
2nd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:08 p.m. by Vice President Spatz.

In attendance: Scott Hege, Brian Ahier, Dan Spatz

Board Absent: Taner Elliott, Erick Larson

Staff: Nolan Young, Keith Mobley, John Amery, Izetta Grossman

Visitors: Gary Rains, and from Windwave: Pat Lauritsen, Bruce Monroe and Blake Lawrence.

Approval of Agenda

Spatz amended the agenda to remove election of officers and add to Discussion 7B: Wasco Broadband
It was moved by Ahier and seconded by Hege to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried, 2 absent.

Approval of Minutes

Spatz identified clerical error. It was moved by Hege and seconded by Ahier to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2015 board meeting with noted correction. The motion carried unanimously, 2 absent.

Financial Reports

Young reviewed the financial reports, explaining that the costs of fiber repair due to the house fire on 4th Street had exceeded the line item. This was an unanticipated cost. Hege noted that the line item in Capital 601 Revenue is connected to the income from reimbursements for line extensions and is opportunity drive.

Young noted that the budget meeting would be on April 23; during that meeting capital improvement numbers will be soft until the board completes the Strategic Business Plan.

12:14 President Larson arrived and the meeting was handed over to him.

Presentation/Discussion:

Larson turned the floor to Windwave representatives Pat Lauritsen, Bruce Monroe and Blake Lawrence who discussed the history of their company and ways they would like to work with QLife. Windwave's parent company is Inland Development – a non-profit was started 11 years ago, serves NE Oregon providing broadband to government, schools and hospitals in underserved rural communities. Windwave was started as a for profit arm that currently ends in Arlington. Much like QLife the basis was to provide economic development opportunities in small towns with no fiber. Three years ago began working on a fiber line to The Dalles/Bonneville; permitting complete, except for Wasco County Planning; the plan is all underground.

In response to a question Pat said they are not interested in competing with QLife, or ISP's, want to build vault close to Big Eddy to connect to other carriers. Currently south to Burns – North to Portland: middle, last and back haul and help others install fiber. Plan is to stay inside Oregon due to regulatory requirements. Their goal is to obtain cross roads here.

Pat said that dark fiber can be used up fairly quickly, where lit fiber gives more opportunities. Young reminded the Board that lit fiber changes QLife's business plan and should be considered during the Strategic Business Plan discussions.

Pat said that Windwave does it all, build, engineer and installation. In response to a question Pat said employees aren't required to live in a particular city; they train up talent, house and feed crews on site during construction, and currently they employ 21 people. Pat said they would like to partner with QLife and help rural areas anyway possible.

Reports

Aristo Operational Management Report – Amery reported the new guidelines for tree trimming are being implemented.

South Wasco Broadband Report – Mobley reported that MCEDD through Regional Solutions obtained the \$500,000 grant from the State for improving broadband in south county with funds available July 1. Mobley handed out a proposal from LSN, which had a total cost of \$690,746 against the \$500,000 grant, leaving \$190,746 for LSN and QLife to work out details of cost sharing. It was moved by Ahier and seconded by Spatz to direct QLife staff and council to continue to negotiate a business model for the South Wasco County Broadband project with LSN, and bring back to the board for consideration.

Next Meeting Dates: April 23, 2015 Noon Budget Committee followed by the Regular Board Meeting.

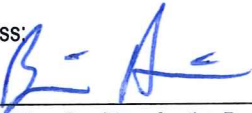
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Izetta Grossman, Secretary

Witness:



Brian Ahier, Sec/Tres for the Board