



MINUTES

QLife Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, July 22, 2021
Via Google Hangouts

Call to Order President Hege calls the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Roll Call Scott Hege, Scott Randall, John Amery, Carrie Pipinich, Tom McGowan, Keith Mobley, Tyler Stone, Stephanie Krell, Matthew Klebes, Mike Middleton, via Google Meet: Joseph Franell, Dale Lepper, Lee Weinstein, and Dan McNeely.

Changes to the Agenda

There are no changes.

[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve the agenda. Mr. Randall seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]

Approval of the Consent Agenda

[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Lepper seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]

Finance

Financial Report, Analysis and Reconciliation

President Hege states that Mr. Middleton is out of town but that his financial report is unremarkable and asks if there are any questions. Mr. Stone adds that the finances look fine but are dependent on how we plan to spend the finances during the fiscal year.

Mr. Mobley asks how the Maupin funds is doing and Mr. Stone explains that it is executing at 209% because of the delayed Gorge Net and LS Network payment spanning a two year period. Mr. Klebes adds that better communication is in place for next year.

Action Items

Downtown Overbuild Project – Bid Results

Mr. Klebes refers to the bid analysis document in the packet and notes the lowest bidder was Blue Mountain Networks. He asks the Board to award Blue Mountain Networks the project and if there are any questions. President Hege wonders what the engineering estimate was and Mr. Klebes responds that it was around \$51,000. Mr. Amery adds that splicing is not included in the bid but is included in the engineering estimate.

[[Mr. Lepper moves to award Blue Mountain Networks the Downtown Overbuild Project. Mr. Weinstein seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]

President Hege wonders when work would begin and Mr. Amery explains that contract negotiations tend to last three weeks. Mr. Franell adds that it would take three weeks to schedule their crew and the expectation to complete the project is within the next few months. Mr. Amery notes that Blue Mountain Networks work should be complete by the end of the year and then we will come back to splice as we develop more projects.

Discussion Items

Business Oregon/NTIA Project Update

Mr. Klebes reviews the grant opportunity with the Board and informs them that a third-party will review the documents included in the packet. There is an expectation that we will receive feedback following this review before the deadline in August. Awarding will happen sometime in November. Mr. Stone adds that at \$5M, this will be the biggest project ever undertaken by QLife and shows how much funding is out there to pursue which will have a significant impact on the rural broadband mission.

Mr. Klebes remarks that the project includes building 28 miles of fiber and which we did not do during the Maupin project. The ISP's we worked with at the time built the fiber. The cost estimate also includes insuring the asset.

Mr. Mobley asks if the fiber will be open access and Mr. Klebes confirms that it will be. Blue Mountain Networks' contribution is substantial so they will have an IRU for 20 to 30 years.

President Hege asks of the likelihood that we will be successful in receiving the grant funds and Mr. Klebes explains that there is an urgency to getting out these grant dollars with an emphasis on the state applications. Ms. Pipinich adds that it is a brand new funding program so there are some unknown factors.

President Hege asks which other counties were chosen for the Business Oregon application and what their scale and scope are. Ms. Pipinich says that she can find out more about the scope but knows that Benton County will receive \$6.6M for 4,500 homes, Grant County will receive \$2.1M for 362 homes, Wasco County will receive \$4.6M for 613 homes, and Josephine County will receive \$6.3M for 1,710 homes.

Mr. Klebes remarks that the original plan included Sportsman's Park but it has been removed along with the 100 homes. It is still on the radar in case funding comes in while we are already building in South County. Mr. Stone adds that we are actively looking at how to complete the segment for Sportsman's Park with this project by exploring other grants and/or American Rescue Act (ARA) funds.

President Hege asks where the source of the \$1M match will be coming from and Mr. Klebes says likely the QLife Capital fund but ideally we would use ARA funds. President Hege asks how we would deploy fiber at the fairgrounds and Mr. Stone responds deployment would be wireless.

Commstructure Work Order #32 – NESC OPUC Compliance

Mr. Klebes refers to work order #32 included in the packet and explains that it deals with a yearly pole inspection by Commstructure. Mr. McNeely adds that this is a routine inspection where they inspect 10% of the poles for repair and violations and usually turn up some minor issues. Mr. Amery asks how much of QLife's assets are inspected and Mr. McNeely explains that 10% are inspected each year moving along the network footprint.

CGCC Scholarship Acknowledgement Letter

Ms. Krell refers to the scholarship acknowledgment in the packet and reminds the Board that we donated \$2,000 to electro-mechanical students at CGCC. The Board asks her to invite the scholarship recipient to an upcoming meeting.

Aristo Technical Management Report

Mr. Amery informs the Board that there are no current damages to report and that the Fiber Guys have completed their punch list for the Curtis Homes project. Next, we are focusing on fiber to the home (FTTH) solutions with ISP partners.

Mr. Klebes reminds the Board that they expressed interest in a QLife site visit and asked if they were still interested. President Hege remarks that it could be of value and Mr. Amery suggests visiting the colocation space.

President Hege asks if Lone Pine is complete and Mr. Klebes replies that we are only waiting on USAC reimbursement for the construction costs QLife invested. President Hege wonders if we have customers in that area yet and Mr. Amery responds that we are still ironing out FTTH but working on different concepts. Mr. Lepper adds that the connection at Water's Edge is working great and notices a big difference.

Mr. Mobley informs the Board that a doctoral student from UC Berkley reached out to him about the history of QLife and sat in on the first strategic planning session. She has written a paper and emailed a draft to Mr. Mobley. He will share it with the Board.

Mr. McGowan asks about The Dalles to Tygh Valley project and if it is aerial or underground fiber. Mr. Klebes explains that it would be a bit of both; aerial where poles currently exist and underground near the wildlife preserve and in any gaps along the highway. President Hege wonders if it is less expensive to install poles where there are gaps and Mr. McNeely responds that installation is an option and can be more cost effective in some cases. Mr. Amery adds that maintenance costs increase as fires move through and area and infrastructure is aerial.

The meeting is adjourned at 1:00 PM

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set for August 26, 2021.

These minutes were approved by the QLife Board on September 23, 2021.



~~Lee Weinstein, Secretary~~

Scott Hege, President