Full Commission Meeting
May 31, 2011
Jamaica Town Hall, 3735 Route 30, Jamaica, VT


Citizen Interest Commissioners Present:

Guests Present: Tess Gauthier, Community Broadband Team Director, VTel; Bil Colvin, Wilmington/Dover; Paul Fraser, Public - Jamaica, Olga Peters - The Commons News

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Dinah Reed, Ashley Collins

Introductions: There was a quorum of 17 towns present.

Convened: 7:34pm

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: On a motion by Jodi French, seconded by Jack Cunningham the minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Executive Board Report: On a motion by Jodi French seconded by Norm Wright, the executive board draft minutes from the May meeting were accepted.

Financial Report: On a motion by Jodi French, seconded by Reg Maynard the finance report was approved.

Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:

1) Resolution - Chris explained that the Legislature has extended the period by which regional plans must be readopted from 5 years to 8. This plan will expire in October 2014. Jodi French moved that we accept the resolution date, seconded by Charlie Goodwin. Motion accepted.

2) Budget – There will be a finance meeting held on June 13th to discuss the proposed budget for the FY 2012. The main focus of the budget discussion will be the allocation of core funding hours and responding to performance measures.

3) June Meeting – Chris proposed that in place of the annual picnic we hold a regular Commission meeting, which will take place in Halifax.
Vermont Telephone Company, Inc (VTel) – Tess Gauthier, Community Broadband Team Director for VTel, was present to discuss a middle-mile fiber optic project to anchor institutions (Vermont Broadband Enhanced Learning Link), and a wireless 4G LTE Network broadband last mile project (Wireless Open World). These projects are supported by grants and loans through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This project will also collaborate with the development of the Vermont Smart Grid system being implemented by electric utilities in the state. Tess displayed a coverage map that identified areas currently served by VTel, and where they are expected to deploy the service. It is the hope of VTel to deploy the fiber optic and wireless broadband networks by the end of 2013. VTel is also offering off-site data storage to schools participating in the VTel fiber optic project. Questions were raised concerning the accuracy of the coverage map because some of the areas highlighted as presently having coverage weren’t particularly accurate. It was explained that the wireless broadband network was going to make use of a wavelength spectrum previously used by analog television signals, which should be better “bend” around hilly and mountainous terrain. Users of the wireless broadband network would subscribe to VTel for service. For more information visit the VTel website at http://www.vermontel.com/broadband-stimulus.

Charlie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Norm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins