MINUTES OF THE CC COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
December 7, 2023

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the CC Communications was called to order at 1:45 PM on December 7, 2023.

PRESENT: Commissioner Myles Getto
Commissioner Harry Scharmann
Commissioner Justin Heath
General Manager Mark Feest
Chief Financial Officer Jamie Hyde
Administrative Assistant Shelly Bunyard

ABSENT:

Public Comment:

Chairman Myles Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of Posting of Agenda:

It was verified by Shelly Bunyard, Administrative Assistant, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 1st day of December, 2023 between the hours of 1 pm and 5 pm at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: General Manager Annual Performance Evaluation for 2023 conducted pursuant to NRS 241.031

Jamie Hyde, CC Communications. We are asking for a motion to approve the General Manager / CEO aggregate performance evaluation as complied and presented. The General Manager is due for an annual performance evaluation by the Board. Pursuant to NRS 241.031, together with the AG Opinions, the Open Meeting Manual, and interpretation of these sources, the evaluation must be conducted in an open meeting. Individual Board members have previously completed evaluation forms and the HR Manager has compiled those forms into a summary that shows the aggregate ratings. At this time, the Board, as a public body, must review this summary and produce an evaluation attributable to the Board as a whole. The Board may choose to discuss and refine any aspect of the aggregate ratings. Thereafter, in order to finalize the evaluation process, the HR Manager and the Chief Financial Officer will need a motion to approve the evaluation summary.

The comments are included in the evaluation recommend the General Manager/CEO receive a 5% increase.

Chairman Myles Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none. Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the General Manager/CEO aggregate performance evaluation as compiled and presented. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reports: General Manager Report:

1. Letter re: S. 3321
   a. S. 3321 "Lowering Broadband Costs for Consumers Act of 2023" is sponsored by Senator Mullen (R-OK), and co-sponsored by Senator Kelley (D-AZ) and Senator Crapo (R-ID), thereafter referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

   b. CC Communications provided a letter of support to our two US Senators requesting they consider co-sponsoring the bill.
   c. The heart of the legislation would be reforming the contribution side of the High Cost Fund:

"(A) INITIAL RULEMAKING.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Lowering Broadband Costs for Consumers Act of 2023, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking to reform the Universal Service Fund by **expanding the contribution base so that** broadband providers **and edge providers**, except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to the specific, predictable, and sufficient mechanisms established by the Commission to preserve and advance universal service. (**Emphasis added**)

2. FCC action re: discrimination
   a. The FCC adopted rules to "eliminate digital discrimination" and provide for FCC initiated investigations regarding deployment.
   b. Digital discrimination that can be investigated includes both intentional and unintentional disparate impact of deployment decisions.
   c. Commissioner Carr voted against the new rules stating, "It's not about discrimination. It's about control,"

3. Grants
   a. SCA
      i. We are required to provide explanations for why the project is behind schedule. The original schedule indicates that we should be on period 2 year 2. However, we were not even allowed to start until 6 months ago.
      ii. I am surprised at what an issue this seems to be for the NTIA.
         1. We were delayed 15 to 16 months from the scheduled start date, yet at this time we are expected to complete the project on time. This will not be possible, and the schedule will need to be worked through with NTIA.
   b. Tribal
      i. Two of four Tribal projects are in environmental assessment stages.
      ii. One additional has a meeting set to review proposed agreements that we received this week
      iii. The last one does not appear to be moving, however, ITCN has assigned a PM to it (David Tilley).

4. Storey County FTTH
   a. Draft contract between Storey and Churchill County
   b. Draft contract between Comstock and Storey County for obtaining pole rights/obligations held by Comstock
   c. Last mile construction quote
      i. Need materials quote
      ii. As with grant projects and internally funded FTTH, prices have increased for both materials and construction since these projects were originally estimated.
         1. As you may recall, I provided articles on two large telecommunications companies that have had to significantly reduce their FTTH plans after exhausting Capex funding at around 60% of their builds due to inflation.
   d. Middle mile construction and material quote
   e. Once we have agreement from the other parties on 4a and 4b, as well as final 4c(i), this should come before the Churchill County Commission.
5. C15
   a. Delivery by EOY
   b. 60-90 days for install and migration
   c. We have engaged Vantage Point Solutions' engineering team to assist with acceptance testing and sign off
6. NAS Fallon
   a. Met with NAS Fallon to discuss Base communications needs, growth, and modernization planning for their network's data and voice communications.
      i. Presently there is not Capex funding for physical upgrades
         1. Fiber runs
         2. VoIP phones
      ii. They have NMCI data network, which is a combination of our physical plant and theirs.
         1. Moving from traditional phone to VoIP cannot be supported on the existing network
      iii. Current system in EOL, with all the challenges that accompany that
      iv. Our direction is to maintain current services within the constraints of No Capex and no guaranteed ongoing service contract
      v. Despite those constraints, we will:
         1. Seek to align their system with our new C15 and any potential component swaps that will introduce supported equipment into their network at a cost that can be recovered through service contract(s)
         2. Acquire spares for EOL systems, and the technical term:
            a. Muddle through
         3. Concerning calls from leadership?
7. Transport Gear
   a. Purchase made as approved at the September Board Meeting
   b. Awaiting delivery and installation schedule

Affidavit of Posting:

Public Comment:

Chairman Myles Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

APPROVED: ______________________
Myles Getto, Chairman

APPROVED: ______________________
Harry Scharmann, Vice, Chairman

APPROVED: ______________________
Justin Heath, Commissioner

____
Shelly Bunyard, Administrative Assistant

____
Mark Feest, General Manager/CEO