



MINUTES

QLife Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2021
Via Google Hangouts

Call to Order President Hege calls the meeting to order at 1:18 PM.

Roll Call Scott Hege, Rod Runyon, Dale Lepper, Lee Weinstein, John Amery, Tom McGowan, Keith Mobley, Carrie Pipinich, Joseph Franell, Dan McNeely, Kate Willis, Kristen Campbell, Tyler Stone, Stephanie Krell, Matthew Klebes, and Mike Middleton.

Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Klebes asks to move the Downtown wifi discussion to the top of the agenda due to time constraints.

[[Mr. Weinstein moves to approve the agenda. Mr. Runyon 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.]]

Discussion Items

Downtown Wifi

Mr. Franell informs the Board that after last month's meeting, he walked downtown and attempted to connect to the wifi system with widely mixed results using his personal phone. He then referred his network team to retrace his steps and they had no issues using an older device. It was discovered that when the system was set up, it required users to accept the terms and conditions before granting access. The function in the system is broken when a user has a newer device. Gorge Net has since turned off that function and in most cases, the speeds have improved.

There are additional problems that were discovered with the network, for instance, the old Taco Time building had equipment on it which was previously negotiated by the city. The building has since been sold and the new owner removed the equipment creating a hole in the network. There are also some areas with significant interference near Skylink. Mr. Franell notes that they will be performing a full assessment on the equipment and it will likely need an upgrade which could be rolled into a full fiber build in The Dalles.

Mr. Amery informs the Board that the 400 homes that are part of the Liberty Street project are in the engineering phase and he expects that to be completed by mid-July and Mr. Franell adds that this will be followed by phase two connecting another 400 homes.

Mr. Mobley notes that there were leases negotiated for the equipment on the old Taco Time building and throwing it away may have violated the terms.

Action Items

Commstructure Work Order 28 & 29

Mr. Stone informs the Board that he is monitoring federal dollars that have been initiated and wants to discuss with the Board where they would like QLife to build fiber next. There are currently three potential projects, Maupin to Pine Hollow, The Dalles to Dufur and The Dalles to Mosier. If we can get all three funded, that would give us a huge stepping point to reach more rural residents. He asks the Board if they would like Commstructure to start on

engineering for these projects or wait until funding is secured. Mr. McNeely adds that they could start engineering immediately and kept the cost at \$2,500 per project.

President Hege wonders how we plan to serve those rural areas once we build to general area and Mr. Stone explains that once we get a main line in to the area, we could pursue additional grant funds to expand to the homes, we could develop a broadband service district, wireless options for remote areas, etc. Mr. Stone also states that QLife has always taken the position to get service lines into areas and then would work out a partnership or chip away expansion using our own funding. Mr. Runyon says that as new funding sources arise, we can go back and include those in expenses.

[[The Board is in consensus for Mr. Stone to sign Work Order #28 and #29 and proceed with engineering.]]

CGCC Foundation Scholarship

Ms. Krell informs the Board that she has received a request for QLife’s continued support of the CGCC Foundation for the 2021-2022 academic year and notes that they requested an increase to \$2,500 when historically, we have donated \$2,000. President Hege remarks that we have already approved the budget for FY21 so we could consider an increase next year if they contact us earlier.

[[The Board is in consensus to donate \$2,000 to the CGCC Foundation for 2021-2022 scholarship recipients.]]

Finance

Financial Report, Analysis and Reconciliation

Mr. Middleton presents the March financial report to the Board included in the packet. He notes that the Operations fund balance has decreased significantly because we are writing off some delinquent balances in April. Expenses are executing high and we will start sending out a bill to push a payment for connection fees in Maupin.

Mr. Middleton also notes that the reconciliations deposit went in late. It has not happened in the past so he wanted to bring it to the Board’s attention.

Discussion Items (continued)

QLife Vision for Future/Strategic Direction

Mr. Weinstein mentions that since our last meeting, he has discussed with Mr. Stone and President Hege about gathering a task force to streamline a plan for the QLife vision and strategic direction. The goal is to pull together interested parties and figure out how to make the internet more accessible and prepare for the future of broadband. Mr. Weinstein envisions having a draft plan to bring back to the Board by June. QLife should drive the conversation but he sees the benefit of “buy in” from other entities. Mr. Klebes also remarks that we should consider a review of QLife’s vision every year as it helps to inform the budget process.

President Hege asks if we have any representation in Mosier on the task force and Mr. Weinstein remarks that he will find someone to participate. Ms. Pipinich suggests adding Jack Ryan of Dufur to represent South Wasco County. Mr. Stone would also like Roger Kline from Northern Wasco PUD to be involved and Mr. Mobley adds that power providers are also in line for dollars flowing from D.C.

Aristo Management Report

Mr. Amery presents photos of QLife electronics at St. Mary’s and patch cable switches that are end of life. He explains that his concerns about end of life of these switches are low because we have many replacement switches available to us.

Mr. Klebes notes the time and proposes that we push the rest of the agenda items to next month’s meeting. The Board agrees.

The meeting is adjourned at 2:07 PM

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set for May 27, 2021.

These minutes were approved by the QLife Board on May 27, 2021.



Lee Weinstein, Secretary