

Burlington Telecom Advisory Board

June 4, 2014

Special Meeting

Members: David Provost, Karen Paul, Vince Brennan, Pat Robins, Joan Shannon (left at 5:49 p.m.)

Member's Absent: David Parker

Others Present: Stephen Barraclough, Amber Thibeault, Terry Dorman (on phone) (left at 5:46 p.m.)

Meeting commenced at 4:38 p.m.

1. Discussion with Public Access Groups Regarding Burlington Telecom

Provost: history and purpose of tonight's meeting. Hear from all about concerns, suggestions and thoughts on next phase of BT.

Lauren-Glenn Davitian: Executive director of CCTV and represents BAMO's (Burlington Access Management Organization). Concerns about settlement agreement. Promote cultural life of community by public involvement with BT. Read pieces of statement dated June 4th (which is attached to the minutes). Engage public in picking new owner of BT. Do not want to see Comcast with BT. "Partner" not a term that should be used if City intending to sell BT. How do we develop a process and a timeframe to make this happen?

Steve Goodkind: Resident, subscriber and retired City Employee. City's not going to be owner of BT from documents. Would like to see some vestige of public ownership and the city need to try to get paid back. Only way that is going to work is sell for \$1 to cooperative and they can assume the debt from Merchants.

Scott Campitelli: Executive director of RETN. Burlington is a hub of economic development. The Art of the Possible broadband article – how local infrastructure was put to use. Reward of local and public infrastructure. It's a decision for the community to make. Criteria needs to go beyond \$17 million. It's part, but building value is critical to future of the city and maybe beyond.

Greg Epler-Wood: Self employed consultant for community media centers throughout the state. Not here to provide solution, back-up Lauren-Glenn and Scott on the importance of a public process. Chair of CAC/TAC with AJE controversy – so many people in town with brilliant ideas. Supports a fair, honest and open process. Involved with cooperative – reported results to CC. Should conduct survey as part of this process. Information is available to the BTAB if they would like to see this. The number one concern for those surveyed was keeping BT local.

Seth Mobley: Executive director of VCAM – two very different experiences with different companies. The company who buys BT needs to be excited in investing in community and local economy. Need open process.

Bradley Holt: Consider process of coming up with options that may not have been considered before.

Alan Matson: Burlington resident, subscriber and cooperative member. Look forward to open process. There is a lot of energy within the community – engage the community. Looking for community solutions to get into unserved areas of the City. Cooperative has thoughts as to how to build the value of BT.

Dorman: It makes sense for Burlington to have continued interest in BT. Not sure how given the limitations, Burlington can own 100% of it. Parameters of settlement, if Burlington was able to acquire the asset now, it would open Burlington up to further liability.

Robins: Strong responsibility to recover some of the \$17 million.

Shannon: Concerns raised by BAMO's was that 5-10 years down the road Comcast will own the system and it's important to all of the BTAB that this won't happen. Creation of a forum will benefit everyone.

Campitelli: How do we develop process and timeframe?

Mobley: Have we looked at other cities that are running successful operations?

Provost: Discussed Gary Evans role with BTAB and his experience.

Davitian: Is it realistic to develop process and to make recommendation to the CC?

Shannon: This group was selected for their expertise; intention was exactly what was stated by BAMO's. If BAMO's feel like there is a gap in representation – open to considering expansion of the group.

Davitian: Criteria for making decisions is the concern – needs to be informed by explicit criteria.

Shannon: The BTAB has a list of criteria and could put it in a format to be distributed. BTAB will include this as a future agenda item.

Brennan: Will participate as much as possible to make this public process.

Shannon: request at next meeting to review criteria and issue it publicly. Think about warning publicly though alternative means that have not been previously used.

Paul: agreement does allow for the City to convert what it would receive into shares of the new entity. Waterfront process was a completely different process. A lot of executive sessions but there were many that were necessary. In the last 6 months we had open meetings and all of the financials were in public session. Full exchange of ideas and questions. It has been an open process. Open to hearing different criteria and principles – want it to be community process but misleading to think that we are going to get potential buyers in a completely open process to give their information – not reasonable and not how business works in many venues.

Barracough: missing element is the management team at BT. Very focused over the next two years of driving the ubiquitous adoption of broadband. Fully embrace the technology and that will lead us to our partner.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.