

Burlington Telecom Advisory Board

DRAFT

July 9, 2014

Regular Meeting

Members: David Provost, Karen Paul, Vince Brennan (arrived at 5:37 p.m.) and David Parker

Member's Absent: Pat Robins and Joan Shannon

Others Present: Stephen Barraclough, Amber Thibeault, Nick Martin and Terry Dorman (by phone, left at 6:01 p.m.)

Public Members: Bradley Holt, Jason Pelletier

Meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m.

1. Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from last BTAB meeting: **MOTION** by *Brennan*, seconded by *Paul*. *Parker* abstained. *Unanimous*.
3. Public Forum
 - a. *Bradley Holt*: encourage BTAB to more proactively work with public about processes and decisions. Meeting room is not a good space for encouraging public dialogue.
4. Update on PSB Docket No. 7044
 - a. Discussion regarding the BTAB minutes and agendas.
 - i. Minutes and agenda are posted on website. Should be posted on City and BT's website in the future within 24 hours but certainly within the 5 days as required by law.
 1. *Thibeault* will send all of the past minutes and agendas to the City for inclusion on the City's website.
 - b. Status of the PSB Docket No. 7044:
 - i. *Dorman* stated that additional questions are due to the PSB next week in anticipation of the technical hearing on July 22nd.
 - ii. *Provost*: inquired as to whether there was a timeline commitment from the Board. The Board specifically stated last night that there was no time commitment.
 - iii. *Paul*: At the last BOF meeting, City Councilors indicated that they would like to see the answers to the PSB questions prior to submission of the answers to the PSB.
 - c. Discussion regarding PSB Public Hearing last night:

- i. *Brennan*: A lot of public speaking in fear of Burlington Telecom being sold to a private entity. A lot of information taken into the record that answers the PSB questions. There were councilors present and there are reservations.
 - ii. *Provost*: inquired as to what the BTAB should be doing to address concerns?
 - 1. *Brennan*: the questions from the PSB need to be answered for the City Council.
 - 2. *Dorman*: one of the challenges with revenue bond is that it requires state law change and is subject to voter/bond referendum and most importantly it pulls the Citibank settlement off the table and allows Citibank to ask for a lot more money.
 - 3. *Brennan*: digging into Stephen's salary and the outcome of D&F's profits.
 - iii. *Provost*: committee has a role in making sure that all of the facts are known by the public. BRC started because there was \$50 million spent. This asset was never worth anywhere near that. Citibank settlement is a hope and a dream. To get them to the table to settle is really important. Can do a better job of reminding the community about these reasons. Hard to be competitive when its city owned. Dorman and Fawcett has cost a lot less than the \$17 million that was spent. Have not wavered on path forward. Need to get out in public more.
- d. *Parker*: settlement structure is almost exactly what was proposed four years ago.
- e. Discussion about the 17 million debt to the City.
 - i. *Brennan*: Mayor has written off the 17 million.
 - ii. *Paul*: Chance of recovery is small and at some point we may need to write it off or some portion. Reminded the committee that the settlement does allow the City to retain some ownership in the new entity which could allow for some recovery of the \$16.9 million.
- f. Continued discussion regarding City Council reservations: *Paul*: More than ample time was given at two separate meetings in executive session to ask questions. Lots of questions were asked and all parties were present to answer questions. Term sheets provided well in advance. Council vote was unanimous. BTAB can play active role but every city councilor should be advocating for it because they voted in favor of the settlement and the bridge financing.
 - i. *Brennan*: unanswered questions at the PSB. Once they are answered it will put this to bed.
 - ii. *Paul*: due diligence was conducted.

5. BT Management Update

- a. *Barracough*: full year figures will not be available for another week or two.
- b. Approval from BOF to hire a full-time controller. The position still needs to be approved by the City Council. Next will be a position for a full time marketing manager. BT has had a temporary person for 13 weeks. At one of the next meetings would like to show the marketing plan she has developed. We were going to show it at this meeting but due to the PSB meeting topic, thought there might not be time. Job description for the

marketing position will go to the BOF and City Council – then it will be advertised and interviews conducted. Show product and marketing plan. Job description goes to BOF, then CC, fully covered, then advertise and interview.

- i. *Parker*: wanted to make sure the marketing manager position was included in the FY15 budget. *Barracough* explained that it was.
 - ii. *Provost*: asked that she make the presentation at the next meeting and *Barracough* agreed.
 - c. *Barracough*: capital expenditures are slightly higher because of higher subscribers. Last fiscal year net 299 subscribers and this year 346 net subscribers, 156 in the last 3 months. Signed quite a few new students.
 - d. Help from BTAB as there are two major anchor institutions we have no business with – FAHC and UVM.
 - i. Discussion amongst the group regarding selling points of BT to these two organizations.
 - ii. Several of the board members have connections and will speak with them.
 - iii. *Paul*: agreed with *Holt* that the BTAB meetings need to be had in a larger room.
 - iv. *Holt*: indicated that the video from the PSB hearing is on the CCTV website or will be shortly.
6. Any Other Business
 - a. *Brennan*: comments from the administration totally unnecessary regarding the Osier opinion. Doesn't help the future of BT.
 - b. *Paul*: Asked for more detailed minutes of the BTAB meeting. Request that all minutes and agendas for all BTAB meetings be on the City's website not only going forward but that all meeting minutes and agendas prior be on the City's website. People do not know to look on the BT website for them.
 - c. *Provost*: important that David Parkers voice is at the table. Continued questions about Pat's involvement on the BTAB. Raising additional membership to the BTAB. Should be system in place – process to have different voices heard.
 - i. *Brennan*: talked to administration – looking toward public involvement but think there should be more city council members. Odd number of seats.
 - ii. *Provost*: push for balance in favor of public and owners of Burlington Telecom. Don't want this to be a political process.
 - iii. *Paul*: need areas of expertise on the BTAB.
 - iv. *Provost*: Next meeting will discuss how to solicit and vet names.
 - v. *Brennan*: job descriptions for commission members.
 - d. Next meeting: August 13th at 5:30 p.m.
7. MOTION to adjourn *Brennan*, seconded by *Paul*. *Unanimous*.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.