

GCET

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
324 Main Street 2nd Floor • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone (413) 775-6400 • info@GCET.net • www.GCET.net

GCET BOC Minutes August 1, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00pm
Location: GCET Conference Room & Hybrid
Present at 324 Main: Tim Farrell, David Russell, Jen Stromsten, Pamela Goodwin
Also Present: John Lunt, William St. Denis, Fern Smith, Councilor HelieAnthony Cammalleri (Recorder)

Topics

- Public Comment
 - No speakers
- Year end
 - GCET finishes in the black
 - One-time expenses of \$220K (retirement and CDBG) were challenging
 - Cost control made it possible
 - One position eliminated, so after 6 years payroll is still less than half of what it was under previous GM.
 - Only \$3900 in the black, break even ...needs to be more
 - FY24 projects as having healthy profit now that one time operational expenses are finished.
 - Opted to begin paying indirects a year earlier than agreed upon with previous admin
 - Possible to pay in new budget, even with City bonding mistake raising debt service for one more year. Can pay due to increased profitability.
- GAP Grant
 - GCET one of only 4 organization in Massachusetts to receive funding and the only MLP.
 - Recipients were Comcast, Verizon, Charter....and GCET
 - GCET team and Athena Bradley from the city deserve great credit. Process is highly competitive and other than large corporations, only GCET made the cut.
 - Working on reconciliation
 - Initial target locations from FCC data. Working with MBI to confirm structures actually qualify. Final list of structures targeted will probably change a little bit.
 - Targets outlying areas primarily in North Greenfield, but also out Shelburne Rd and out to the Transfer Station in south part of the city.
 - \$750K grant
 - GCET is the grant administrator
- Residential Retrofit Grant
 - Grant is specifically to help wire up old buildings that are incredibly expensive to bring service to because they have no pathways for internal wiring.

- Grant is for low income with a particular focus on seniors
 - Will be used to bring service to the Weldon on High St.
 - Approximately \$500K grant
 - Building owner and MBI are the grant administrators
 - GCET has applied to be the contracted developer and to provide service
 - We believe we will get the grant
- Meeting with Senator Markey's office
 - Fern Smith met with the Senator's representative
 - Discussion about make ready
 - No local control
 - Costs and timelines spiraling upwards quickly
 - Significant problem for municipalities, what can be done to standardize process and bring transparency to utility pole owners make ready costing and scheduling
 - Is one touch make ready the answer?
 - GCET recognized as one of the only MLPs that do their own work.
- North Build and ARPA
 - Long discussion concerning Mayor's freezing of ARPA funds
 - Necessary for North Build and make ready
 - Mayor has been provided with 500+ page book outlining all GCET spending and all information regarding ARPA money spent to date.
 - ALL GCET payments are processed through the City. There are no GCET invoices that the city doesn't see
 - Have answered questions for months regarding GCET operations and North Build, both through email and in person.
 - GCET needs the ARPA money to continue the North Build and to pay legacy make ready
 - Councilor Helie comments that placing a roadblock to the make ready process would be the worst thing the city could do.
 - Visual presentation of technical aspects of the North build
 - Fiber counts
 - Backbone
 - LCP
 - First to be placed on the poles is the main high fiber count backbone from which all local residential and business service connections (laterals) will be pulled
 - LCP is Local Convergence Point
 - Small building on Severance St that house necessary switching equipment to support North Build
 - Buildout of laterals will start near the LCP and work outward
- Status of questions
 - Discussion of what questions have been asked of GCET
 - John L says all questions asked of us we have answered to the best of our ability
 - Cannot give exact numbers for make ready because we don't set the timing or pricing, the utility pole owners do, can give a range for costs and timelines, that's all we can do.
 - That is the methodology of make ready, it is not under our control.
 - Discussion of GCET BOC oversight role
 - Commissioners provide the oversight as per state law
 - Final point. We will continue answering questions but we need to know if the money will be returned.