

# GCET

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## GCET BOC Minutes June 6, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00pm  
Location: GCET Conference Room & Hybrid  
Present at 324 Main: Tim Farrell, David Russell, Pamela Goodwin  
Also Present: John Lunt, William St. Denis, Fern Smith, Mayor Desorgher, Councilor Bottomley, Councilor Gilmour, Councilor Garrett, Councilor Helie, Councilor Mastrototaro, Councilor Minhas, Anthony Cammalleri

### Topics

- Pre-Meeting Q&A with Councilors and Mayor
  - GCET Commissioner Russell was delayed, so we opened the floor to a question and answer session with Mayor Desorgher and the Councilors listed above.
    - Q&A session was 2 hours long
    - Transcript and video are available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpYsPEbq\\_bs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpYsPEbq_bs)
    - There were many topics covered, summation as best possible here, but for more information please see the transcript
      - **Licensing Process and make ready**
        - After legal cases from 2018 to 2021 were resolved it was determined that municipalities must sign agreements, apply for pole licenses and pay make ready to attach to utility poles. At that point GCET became liable for the payment incurred by the original GCET GM and the small amount of build out from the current group.
        - **Questions from all councilors on this issue including:**
          - **Why is this taking so long?**
          - **How much will it cost?**
          - **When will it be finished?**
          - Answers were that GCET does not control the process. We are applying for space on a private company's property. The Telecom Act of 1996 says they may not unreasonably refuse to allow us to attach, but the cost of preparing the poles and the timeline for the work each pole attacher must do in preparation for GCET attachment is entirely up to them. GCET has NO control over the cost or the timeline. We did state that we felt

overall additional costs to complete make ready would be around \$120K, but that figure was not exact.

- **Verizon Invoices and Payments to Verizon**
- Councilor Mastrototaro had questions regarding the invoices from Verizon including why there isn't more detail for the Verizon invoices and why are the payments sent to the listed address as it is a private home.
- Answers were that despite requests Verizon does not provide these details for make ready work and that payments were sent to the address required by Verizon. GCET did verify that those payments were processed by Verizon and deposited into Verizon accounts. Payments are sent to the address designated by Verizon. The Verizon employee that works with GCET works from home.
- **How many houses will we add with this expansion?**
- Answer is we will pass by about 960 homes, but we won't get them all the first year. The first year we get about 20% uptake, the second year we get up to about 35% uptake and by year 3 we get 40+% uptake.
- General ROI projection is 4 to 5 years.
- **How has ARPA money been spent so far?**
- Of the \$600K spent so far, about \$400K has been spent on equipment for the buildout and about \$200K has been spent on make ready.
- Detail for all spending of ARPA to date is being put together for the Mayor
- All spending for GCET goes through Accounting in the City. The City has access to all invoices and every penny GCET has spent (both ARPA and regular) since its inception.
- **Does the City pay for the power GCET uses on the utility poles.**
- No, GCET is billed separately for all its power usage
- **Who pays for GCET's bonds**
- GCET ratepayers pay for GCET bonds
- **Will GCET need additional Bonds?**
- GCET will possibly need additional bonding to finish paying for make ready. We have managed to cover a large part of make ready costs through grants, but we will possibly need a bond to help cover the remainder of the make ready, primarily for the areas where the first GM put up fiber without a license.
- **Why aren't we in more large apartment buildings?**
  - Most large apartment buildings in Greenfield were built before it was standard to put internal conduit (chases) in between floors and along the ceilings to connect to individual apartments. It is VERY expensive to retrofit a building like this for Internet. It is often 20 to 30 times as expensive per unit. We have applied for a Grant to retrofit the Weldon and we feel good about our chances of getting that. Also, these buildings are privately owned and several, for example The Millhouse, have told us repeatedly that they do not want our service. We cannot force them to take it. We will continue to look for grants to help pay for bringing service to this type of building.

- **Close of Q&A session**

- Chair Farrell thanked all attendees and began the formal meeting as Commissioner Russell was present and there was quorum.
- Public Comment
  - No speakers
- Update on North Build status
- Covered in Q&A session
- Unanimous roll call vote to enter Executive session, coming out only to adjourn

Motion to adjourn by David R., Seconded by Jen s.. – Vote in favor was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm