

WEBVTT

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Saidbury. let's open up the meeting let me just hit the record button.

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Record this in the cloud all right. open my thing back up where's the?

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And oh, yeah, 508 We'll call the Executive Committee meeting for the Auto Creek Communication Junior District Order.

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First order of business or general updates. review of the Rfp.

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With possible feedback from rod fish so I could but I met we've we've man how about how about you speak?

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I'm having problems right Now i'm gonna stoke or what?

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, Yeah. I'm sorry my pop drop up the screen

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We got the got some changes from from rob Fish. Christine was going to send some changes, but we never heard back from her

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So we took rob fish's notes and comments some of which we didn't understand what the how they related, but we we just incorporated them, and and got back to having at least a a draft so stuck

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it as a pdf and sent that out I know It was too late, really, to do a do a good overview of it here. but we wanted to get get something something out.

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You've got that now to to digest sorry my screens now now being weird.

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Yes, sir. Stuff Well, thank you Yeah, yeah so it was a you know surprisingly long process of incorporating those changes and going back and forth to make sure we have a document that makes somewhat sense.

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And i'm sure you guys have all read through it already you know all 15

pages, and you know in the ensuing 4 h 5 h.

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But yeah, so yeah, if you guys just want to take a look, and if there's any anything that that sticks out to you guys, let us know we our hopes are to get this out within the week, I deal.

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I mean that I think the sooner I mean after our attorneys have looked at it.

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You know, you know, 2 weeks tops but to get this out so I've actually had a hotel Co.

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Or not Otto Cc I reach out twice and me like So where's that Rfp?

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We want to answer it. So I adam they're they're they're trying to plan for next year. corporate.

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You know, answering our Rfp. and possibly putting plans for doing some of the work.

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If they are chosen by us. So, Bill, I take it that a lot of that language and stuff was list was lifted from other Rfp. type.

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Things. It wasn't all originally made up correct yeah no yeah.

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We don't want a chance to Look at all you know I just barely started looking at it.

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But you know It's like you look very formal so I will go over it.

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Yep: Yeah, please do. Yeah, especially this, you know, you know.

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I mean, you know, the Executive Committee should definitely have a you know a look at this, and just see, to make sure.

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You know, if you have any questions and good, you know, more eyes are better than 6 eyes. Okay, 8 eyes.

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If you count Rob So with that, though in your communication with Rob Fish.

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Yes said anything about Southern Vermont cod and what they're doing.

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If they're doing the same similar thing so so let's see, I was gonna bring that we I mean we're pretty small group.

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I was gonna bring that up with probably in the Vcb. updates.

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But we can talk, about it now. so it we've been it's been known to to us. that their Ntia Grant was denied, and I Yeah, and so I don't don't know what their next steps are I know

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that Rob is suggested that we reach out to them to talk about the possibility of a manager.

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You know them, or maple didn't really get any sort of clarification on exactly what that would look like, whether we would dissolve, or whether or what what what they're anticipating. I mean we're going through 4 with

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Rfp: Yeah. regardless I mean, I did you know and we have an Mlu with them just to with Southern Vermont to share information.

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That's it, you know. Back when jeff sutch was their chair. in the beginning middle of this and end of 2,020 into the beginning of 2,021 toward the end of 2,020 actually Jeff

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Sachs was a really involved member and he We had a lot of communication, and then it just died off when he left, and they went their own way. And so the same thing with Maple like maple's kind of gone it in a completely

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different direction. You know, They've selected a potentially selected a partner in Waitsville Valley Telecom and building their own network and over building in hotel Co.

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Areas and cci areas. So those those are. those are the 2 ceds that we would possibly merge with or looked to work with.

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Yeah, I Yeah. and I guess I mean you know a site you know I don't want to bull bully anybody in thinking I I don't know what this can mean for us.

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And what Rob really means by that? I personally, this is my, you know, just as Bill Moore not as chair, you know.

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I I don't I don't see how we could merge with either one of them.

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Right now. I mean Southern Vermont, maybe because they, their model looks a little closer to what we were looking at.

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But with Maple I I don't maybe they had no interest in working with this right from the start.

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So the idea of you know. Hey, you guys want to do some more work for us, and, you know, take I mean there's just no, there's no connection there.

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But who knows I could you could change and the state says you guys need to burge? and these are who with whom you need to merge them.

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That's something we'll bridge about the cross we get to it.

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In a recent well recent, just a few minutes ago, conversation with Amanda she was saying that we could reach out to the Bennington regional playing.

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They call it a little bit differently. because they're handling it for son of Vermont, and they would probably be a really good source of to see where they are I reached. reached out to I think his name is Jerry

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Dorsey. he's on the governing board representing some from my Cu D.

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On Vikuda about Project manager and he wasn't aware that they've even gotten that far yet.

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So? Oh, wow! yeah, that's what he said he could be wrong.

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But then then he gave me some names to reach out to make sure that he's not making a mistake on this.

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So, Blair, I mean you do a lot with Vikuda I didn't know if maybe you wanted to taking you down that road, maybe of reaching out to find out what's going on with southern , in the region

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planning. Yeah, and the Vicuda It's. it's like out of Creek in Southern Vermont.

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We're doing our own thing with you know reaching out to a an isp already where the others you know they're pretty much building from scratch the way it looks you know we're doing kind of doing a different thing

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So Yeah. So we can reach out to see what you know.

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Make a phone call, find out just where they are on this.

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So that'd be great thank you so moving on From that our B was giving towns ahead of by Ocu d's hopes for arpa matching funds you know that was that conversation we were having

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a little while ago, with the you know that that state formula they'd set up for the Is.

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It act 71 the Vermont that first \$100,000,000, and then the other \$116,000,000 chunk that they would match with Arpa funds.

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If the town's committed, based on their based on their miles of unserved.

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You know, i'm no further on that conversation I don't know , I sent

out the just a rough draft.

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I just took a shot at taking what Will had sent me from the cuda, and included just some upfront language that might might help help us go in there.

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I mean, basically we're just saying you know if you could you could see your way clear to allocate funds to us or dedicate funds.

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It's easy to do the advantage to you is will will handle all the paperwork associated with that donation, or that allocation.

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One group for all towns. they made it sound very easy wielded in his his right.

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If there's several ways they can allocate the money just by.

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You know a board and or an mou something that just says, yes, we're going to allocate our \$16,000, so that you can get that matching funds assigned to us.

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I believe I sent that out to him. You got that?

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Yes, yeah, like you say it's i'm not elegant writer, but I took my best shot at it. Well, I think it's I think it's great first of all.

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And I also think that you know it's sort of a town by town kind of feel out right.

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I mean like we've got these talking points but you're gonna be able to gauge what's gonna work in your town, you know.

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Yeah, and I was thinking about those points of being that these are matching funds like You're gonna that money's gonna double Grant.

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It's going to the CD but like that's going to go, you know, toward to toward toward you you know maximize your money.

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It's that I think I keep a liking into the Vpr.

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Thing. because yeah, And then the middle of the campaign right Now guys they'll be careful when we turn the radio on But

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But it's that Mou. I think is a big selling point, because the way it was worded that a select board can issue an mou, or whatever the amount is.

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Of course we are already know about the leveraging from the Vcbv.

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Can match it, and I think it stated that the money the Arpa funds would not be released by the select board until actual construction started in the town.

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The build-out, so that's a that's a huge salary.

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Yeah, yes. so that may be enough to send off to the Board.

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I I I welcome any. input or should we send that to the whole board?

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And at the next board meeting next week. Say here's your papers.

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Now go and get them right yeah i think that's a great idea, and I think it should be you know, like part of the board packet, or whatever on the agenda.

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And we can sort of talk about the the sales with sale of it.

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Okay at the main i'll include that in their agenda if it's not there.

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I'm mine's easy to say chair This like board so have an inside track there.

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Huh! But as a slide board chair would, What? What do you think?

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Sos it for you. What sells it is from day one before the final rule from the Us.

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Treasury Department was talking about infrastructure and broadband has always been out there.

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And so, with the final rule there is an email that came from it was regards to it wasn't from Vlct.

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I think I got it through Vikuda and was from the Ltc.

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Just telling everyone to take a pause because they still need to interpret the final rule.

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There are still questions there, because it's talking about flexibility and then the last sentence in using arpa funds for government services.

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So now we're going back. Well, what does that mean government services we're talking about flexibility and using the airpip funds.

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But now you've got this government services so now they're going back to try to find out what that means.

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So they said that they're recommending a pause right now, until they get back to us.

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So a pause of even collecting the image mou from the town.

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Just a pause. of allocating our phones. Oh, very good.

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Yeah to to define what that government services is. So any any more questions from anybody.

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Andrew, Chris, Jackie all right, moving on reappointment of board members.

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So i'd like, to say that i've done all the work on this, and looked up and found exactly like how we should be going about doing this. like, Did we talk to Rob about it during one of those meeting.

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We we mentioned it, man, and he didn't seem to have didn't believe that there was a super well-defined process sort of whatever week he made it sound loose.

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Great. That was 3 3 before we go. Yeah, that was my feeling as well just kind of like, whatever you guys decide you're gonna do.

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And so I guess we gotta come. you know, come up with in a policy, you know.

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I. Perhaps you know adoption of a policy will clean that up for us.

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And just saying that you know I don't know I mean i'd be yeah.

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I wouldn't be I mean I feel like it as simple as possible, you know, if you're a pointed by your select.

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But you are, you are you are the member of node or the rep of note from your town.

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Unless the board's been notified of your your resignation or removal.

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I do believe, Bill, thought Karen Huberton. I was reaffirmed by the select Board for this year, and that did go into the minutes.

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Okay, so that's how we handle it in upperton yeah, I mean.

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But and maybe you know, and actually that's fantastic do you mention, because maybe that's a better way to approach.

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It is just one to remind to reminds, like boards, that that these decisions exist, you know, to have that reaffirmation happen.

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I would think it should come from a town because They're the ones that appointed in the first place, and I'm.

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Not a representative of myself. i'm a representative of the town, so that Government should have every responsibility to you know.

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Put me there or not of the mirror right Well, when when we go out and ask for allocations of Arpa funds from our account, we can just ask them to to make a motion, and get it in the minutes that the

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representatives can remain in place that's exactly what we did yep.

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That sounds like the simplest, cleanest way to do it.

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All right. Can we put that in a in a reminder, or and make that a part of the on the agenda for next next meeting, to remind remind reps to approach there slackboards about their reappointment.

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And I think that actually our next, our April meeting will be our reorganizational meeting for us.

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And you know the slate of officers and those kinds of things.

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I think that you know make sure that's on the Agenda, for as well the executive this meeting here, Officer Jay.

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Yes, but I think also to potentially our our officers for the General Board as well.

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Oh, okay, like secretaries and all that kind of stuff. Yeah, yeah.

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Currently we are Secretary Les, I think that at a Cassandra has resigned his secretary, and so we don't have. man has been operating as secretary, which is fantastic but should be a board member that was represented

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on that. So I think I see these nice notes at the bottom of my screen,

capturing every word.

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Everything right? Very zoom is the secretary. Yeah. put that wall of text when we post those for minutes.

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People love reading through them. So yeah so that's just something for us to think about for our April meeting is the those those officers?

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I'll yeah yeah yeah see me get back to the Okay?

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We point Vcbb updates. Do we have any updates on the Vcc.

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Bbb. information is any extra funding doing I mean i've heard nothing.

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I've been i'll be honest I have not been following closely at the State House.

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What's been going on with with funding for this next fiscal year, and what they're gonna give the Vcb to to hand out.

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Has anybody else been walking it up, checking that out? Yeah.

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No, I our first year doing this and in if Amanda hears you to test to it. You know we spent a lot of time going to those to all of those those meetings around. Zoom testifying you know getting our hopes up and

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i've always felt like it's never worth getting excited until the ink is dried on the on those bills, and the the governor signed them, you know, because seeing things just change overnight, and suddenly we had act 2 50 reform that it was

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gone, you know, like. So those I try not to get to involve this: if there's anybody on this board that wants to be be that person have added, Okay, So yeah, you know.

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But aside from the you know, few emails we get from Rob, I think we just, you know, or reach out to our website.

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You know there's been nothing groundbreaking that's come across my desk.

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I don't know if you If Larry you've seen anything not really on the Vcb.

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But Lakota, through Will Anderson, has approached the Vcbb.

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About a purchase agreement I think pretty much when we put a or Cod puts it in an order for either fiber, optic cable, or hardware that they can get the money ahead of time.

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And not wait until it's delivered because sometimes there might be a down payment or something, and there's a gap in time.

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So that's being brought to the bcb board I don't know how they're going to act on it.

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So keep an eye on that one in the white time for cable and hardware.

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It's significant. it's because it's nationwide the demand for a cable and hardware, which I think is sort of another reason, and that's the reason why I look I love our prayer and solicit

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and somebody who already has those lines versus trying to build on our own, or a smaller carrier potentially.

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I don't know. yeah discussion of the H. 315 status and pre-construction. Grant H.

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360. Is that a jackie that Jackie?

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I do. I have a great update actually because in today's mail.

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We received hot off the press our \$63,000 check we're solving for the I know it's very exciting, actually.

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So this is the second half of our H. 315 money, so I will get this deposited tomorrow morning, and we will be good to continue paying bills the next few months.

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Perfect 10 fantastic news, Jackie. Thank you. Speaking of paying bills, I received an invoice from Pakuda for our dose of night.

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\$1,500 in voice Number 1 0 0 5 has not been paid the due day, March fifth, 2,022

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But we were in by will, anderson that we wouldn't have to pay our dues until we got a reconstruction.

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So I haven't responded this I just got this so i'll contact will first to make sure that's in the clear.

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I know when it comes time to to pay that invoice Rob Fish, you know, said that submit a request from Vcvd for those Funds, so apparently will told us in Southern Vermont is in the same boat, as we

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are as far as pre-construction. that we didn't have to pay the dues.

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Not obligated to pay the dues until we had a pre-construction.

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Grant, but apparently can someone have a code is not aware of what Will told us so.

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So i'll straighten that out I'll Send an email out the will , Okay, thank you.

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Thanks, Larry, do what he says and then i'll contact Mccuda with whatever will, tells us, or have will straighten it out.

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Well we might be any closer to that pre-construction.

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Grant the H. 360 and sort of I guess this could be a part of that same

conversation of creating a like an Rf.

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I have Q. Rfp. A request for services for a project manager, a subcontractor, propaganda for a project manager for this for us to hire on to to to work this in a more full-time basis

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Van, you send around a job description which looked really good. I didn't know if somebody with a better background, or I mean better than I around human resources.

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Wanted to take a look at that and word it in a way that it is.

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I guess it's someone for us to discuss we don't want it.

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I didn't think we wanted an employee and that we wanted to have a subcontractor work and do this work for us right?

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And so if we just take absolutely no employees so so if we could take Vans vans work, and if somebody wanted to volunteer to convert that into a something that looked more like a request for a sub that'd be fantastic anyone was

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bored, and we could put it out to the full board if we wanted to.

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Potentially. if executive committee. didn't want to do that is, this independent contractor is that what we're hiring, and not not an employee not employee.

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Zen, it's yeah, yeah, I can home Okay, thanks Jack. And again, I think I know. at least you know like once we get that out there may be at least I know some of the subconscious that may be interested in apply So

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Super. Yeah, Okay, but they'd be interested in writing that I don't think they could do that is that wrong.

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So yeah, I think in response to that that's also when Amanda told me to or told us to reach out to the Bennington regional planning, perfect i'll do that at the same time, thank you and see if they went

with it

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independent versus an employee. you know and then in the whole tax obligation.

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That's on an independent contractor. it's how they handle that, and it seems like that would be more attractive.

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Right Yeah, when you have an employee that's a big deal that's they roll taxes.

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And yeah, that's the top one I my wife's organization does it where they're they're independent contractors basically.

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But as employees they give them a 9,099.

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At the end of the year they get paid if they work they don't get paid.

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If they don't, and that that seems to be pretty straightforward.

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Now I don't do books I recounting so everything seems straightforward to me.

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But I didn't know if that was 1 one counting so of it.

00:27:20.000 --> 00:27:38.000

Yeah, it will be much easier for us if we can keep it as an independent contractor and not do any of the payroll stuff, because payroll will just add too many headaches for one, and especially for one employee.

00:27:38.000 --> 00:27:44.000

Yeah. and and Larry, we had one one that was written.

00:27:44.000 --> 00:27:48.000

I want to buy one of the other cuds.

00:27:48.000 --> 00:28:00.000

We had a proposal, so maybe I can send that and the job description I wrote, and Jack and I can mash those together, sure.

00:28:00.000 --> 00:28:16.000

Yeah, was there an hourly rate in any of the proposals? that's to be determined, or so that So that's where like I think we would get in trouble like for my my experience as a director in hiring people versus

00:28:16.000 --> 00:28:20.000

subcontractors. The Irs is pretty specific about, you know.

00:28:20.000 --> 00:28:25.000

Everyone be a subcontractor if you know, if companies had their way because they have to pay payroll tax, no unemployment.

00:28:25.000 --> 00:28:36.000

But at the point at which we start directing those numbers where we get in trouble, so we say, Well, we'll do it for only \$100 an hour, \$125 an hour versus them at answering an Rfp.

00:28:36.000 --> 00:28:47.000

And let's make a decision about whether or not it's acceptable for us that's who that's Why, we don't get hammered by the irs I think and It was like this Abc.

00:28:47.000 --> 00:28:57.000

About directing them, and them being able to have their, you know, answering something versus being directed to be in a spot, you know, 40 h, a week, or 25 h a week, you know.

00:28:57.000 --> 00:29:11.000

So so good, we actually might be able to write it either way, though based on, you know, time worked this rate versus like.

00:29:11.000 --> 00:29:20.000

The total project is going to be this amount of money right so that's something that we might be able to look at.

00:29:20.000 --> 00:29:33.000

Yeah, you could do it. Not to exceed i'm sure you know, depending on yeah, depending on like where the project is is also going to depend on how much work is involved.

00:29:33.000 --> 00:29:55.000

So you know, at 1 point we're gonna be way overpaying at another rate, you know, we're going to be underpaying, and they may not want to either give quality service or the work won't get done you

00:29:55.000 --> 00:30:08.000

have to sign 2 on the starting date, and how long this position could be for, and we don't know a starting date yet.

00:30:08.000 --> 00:30:18.000

So Well, I appreciate you guys working on that. delegate, delegate.

00:30:18.000 --> 00:30:25.000

You guys are doing a great job, a sign of a good chair right there financials if available.

00:30:25.000 --> 00:30:36.000

From Seward. we got to give financial some sort I do not have this one's financials yet.

00:30:36.000 --> 00:30:44.000

Okay, we do have a warrant, though. Yeah, Okay, that I send everybody a copy of It's not on there.

00:30:44.000 --> 00:30:51.000

Yeah, Well, that's it. that's in financials right it's a warrant , it's part of financials.

00:30:51.000 --> 00:31:00.000

Yeah, anyone will make a Do we approve the war, or do I get its side spin? You know.

00:31:00.000 --> 00:31:14.000

What are you doing today? in? Yeah. and want to make a motion Yeah, I'll make a motion to recruit approve the warrant in the amount of \$15,248 and 54 cents certainly No second

00:31:14.000 --> 00:31:21.000

man, Larry. Then then Andrew, and any discussion, all those in favor.

00:31:21.000 --> 00:31:29.000

Aye, aye, any opposed nice peers that have the eyes do have it. Get to spend some money this month?

00:31:29.000 --> 00:31:42.000

Fantastic. Any other business, seeing none, said: Our next meeting is Wednesday, the second Wednesday, the month work for everybody.

00:31:42.000 --> 00:31:51.000

Still. Yes, yes, don't change or April thirteenth, April thirteenth.

00:31:51.000 --> 00:31:58.000

Oh, Wednesday, the thirteenth! Oh, no! and then agenda.

00:31:58.000 --> 00:32:23.000

Item Number 8 motion to adjourn the motion second from Andrew non-debatable signify by saying, Aye, aye, aye, thank you, guys, thanks. for we'll see you next week.

