

**GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK (GAATN)
INTERLOCAL AGENCY**

1111 West 6th Street
Austin, Texas 78703-5399

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING HELD March 5, 2001

Agenda Item No. 1:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Bard at approximately 1:30 p.m.

The following Board members announced as present:

Bill Bard, on behalf of the University of Texas
Wayne Wedemeyer (alt.), on behalf of the University of Texas
Dave Kelly, on behalf of the State of Texas, General Services Commission
Steve Zoromsky, on behalf of the Lower Colorado River Authority
Tom Lott (alt.), on behalf of the Lower Colorado River Authority
Patrick Jordan, on behalf of the City of Austin
John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin Independent School District
Martha Riekenberg (alt.) on behalf of the City of Austin
Walter LaGrone, on behalf of Travis County

Agenda Item No. 2:

Citizen Communication

There were no citizens present.

Agenda Item No. 3:

Executive Session

After speaking with GAATN Counsel before the meeting, Chairman Bard noted that there was no need to enter into executive session.

Agenda Item No. 4:

Approval of February 5, 2001 Board Minutes

Chairman Bard had some concerns over the February 5, 2001 draft minutes regarding Circle C information. After some discussion with the participants and with input from GAATN Counsel, it was decided that the minutes should be revised. Steve Zoromsky moved to accept the minutes with amendments and this was seconded by Patrick Jordan. Minutes were then approved unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 5:

Hear report and discuss/consider Board Chairman Update.

Chairman Bard stated that he had nothing to report or update.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Hear report and discuss/consider financial report and budget issues.

John Kohlmorgan passed out the financial report for GAATN and noted that the report was through the month ending 1-31-00. He explained that he had just received the document and had little to add to it but would welcome comments. Chairman Bard asked if there was any discussion. Tom Lott noted that the legal fund was down to \$81. Martha explained that AISD encumbered amounts in the budget so for actual transactions, it was better to look at the last page of the report under expenditures. She went on to explain

that the money was there but looks spent. Patrick asked what month the quarterly payments would be shown in. He was told by Martha and John that the September through December months would show those payments. Martha went on to note that the City of Austin 1st Quarter payments were not yet posted in this report. Chairman Bard noted that, while Travis County is still behind on payments, no participant was delinquent to any great extent.

Agenda Item No. 7:

Hear Report and discuss/consider Technical Subcommittee Update.

Tom Lott reported that the Texas History Museum was moving forward with innerduct nearing completion and that our maintenance contractor was getting ready to splice. Martha added that the splicing for A2N would be the 24th of this month and the super ring would be spliced on the 31st of this month. Martha went on to say that the riser pole at Colorado Street was where we had stopped at the moment and were waiting on Austin Energy to reset that pole. No need to build the riser and then have to redo it when the new pole is set.

Tom went on to discuss the Arboretum project set to happen in September. He also shared that the Technical Committee had been approached by UT about a POP for the upcoming Internet 2 conference. Wayne explained that they were investigating an OC-48 connection through GAATN. He explained that this would be a temporary connection for the conference and that they were looking for options at this point and would be willing to pay for the service wherever they could get the best deal. Chairman Bard questioned consequences to reliability or overall network performance as a result of this kind of activity. Martha explained that attenuation increases every time an access point is created. Patrick commented that typically this would be served via a spur and would not entail a topological change. Martha expounded that if slack was available, then it might be possible to splice in the spur with minimal impact to entities other than UT, but if slack had to be added, then all entities' loops would change. Patrick noted that entering an existing splice case would be best case should slack need to be added. Martha said that there was one on the south side of the Arboretum but that it was about 1500 ft away from Great Hills Trail. She also mentioned that it mattered if they wanted a spur with a collapsed ring or dual entrance. Wayne stated that they were just looking for options and hoped to know more shortly. Patrick noted that from a City of Austin perspective he saw no reason to object to the UT POP and that he foresaw no negative budget impact to GAATN. Chairman Bard asked if approval was needed by the Board. Patrick noted that there seemed to be time to wait and see what specifics could be found out so that a more complete proposal could be evaluated.

Tom went on to report that the Technical Committee had discussed the cable remnant resale issue. This was based on an inquiry from UT about the "left-over" fiber pieces stored at the Maintenance Contractor's warehouse. He presented the Technical Committee recommendations to allow the sale of cable remnants of 1000 ft or less in length and explained a suggested formula that would be used to establish value. All sales will require approval by the network manager who would also negotiate for the fiber. Chairman Bard said he would get this information back to those interested parties. Tom then stated that the Tech Committee had worked hard to establish a standard and that approval would be needed by the Board. Patrick moved to accept the changes to the policy and the standard established by the Technical Committee to sell fiber remnants to participants. Seconded by Steve Zoromsky, the motion passed unanimously.

Tom also reported that Scott Wyatt, from AISD Risk Management, and Billy Gammon, from the William Gammon Insurance Agency, had come to our meeting. The discussion that followed concerned GAATN's casualty insurance and the impact of not filing un-reimbursable claims. Patrick noted that in the event we did not meet our deductible at year's end then we could turn our accumulated documentation in for consideration at that time. Martha added that tracking the incidents was important for budgetary purposes. Billy Gammon indicated that it was not an insurance requirement to document and mentioned that consistently reporting the incidents could be detrimental to future insurance negotiations. Patrick noted that it was up to the Network Manager to document and retain records on activity relating to damage and that the information was also important to the fiscal agent. Martha commented that the Maintenance Contractor's report went to both AISD and the City of Austin presently, a practice that would continue. She stated that the major change was that the Risk Manager would no longer pass all incidents through to the insurance company for handling.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Hear report and discuss/consider report from the Network Manager's update.

Martha began by noting that the Texas History Museum cable placement should start next week with splicing to follow the last two weekends in March. She then presented the Board with information about GAATN cable reorder. She reminded the Board that the cable order had been split between two cable vendors, Anixter and Graybar. Recently, Anixter has had some major order cancellations, presenting an opportunity for GAATN to receive its order earlier and at a reduced price (from \$4.65/ft to \$4.10/ft or a savings of \$16,500). The downside is that GAATN would be receiving the order this fiscal year when it was budgeted in next FY.. She suggested that a transfer within the current budget could be made to allow the accelerated order, but that if GAATN wanted to have these savings, a decision was needed. Dave asked if the fiber had been ordered and was told yes by Martha, per the Board authorization in January, but that no fiscal responsibility existed if we were to cancel it this early. There was general discussion then on the pro's and con's of the issue, centering mainly on the potential savings versus the problems involved in having AISD move funds around in the budget. John commented that AISD would accommodate the Board and requested knowing specifically which accounts to transfer from and to. Dave asked what type fiber it was and Martha responded with "114 strand with GAATN custom sheath". Chairman Bard asked for motions. Dave made a motion to take advantage of the opportunity for advancing the fiber order and saving \$16,500. Tom remarked that we needed to define accounts so Chairman Bard added that "as part of the motion to acquire this 30,000 foot reel of cable for \$123,000, we will need to cancel a pending order due November 2001 and take money from the construction account number 6244, transferring it to maintenance account number 6319. This was seconded by Patrick Jordan. The motion passed with Steve Zoromsky and Walter Lagrone abstaining from the vote.

Martha then moved into the activity with Grande Communications building in the Austin area. She explained that Grande had been pushing to have their contractors qualified to relocate GAATN fiber and summarized some of the problems that are associated with that along with describing common mistakes made by contractors that relocate fiber. Ashley Wolf from the City of Austin added that Grande was expecting a quick turnaround for their requests and that they were deploying everywhere. Martha added that XO NextLink was also starting up activity around Austin. Patrick noted that GAATN has enjoyed the benefits of a single maintenance contractor and that this policy has been of great benefit to GAATN. Martha added that it was established in the GAATN Policy and Procedures that only the approved GAATN contractor could handle active GAATN plant. It was made clear that Grande is welcome to approach the Board, but that approval to be allowed to transfer or move GAATN plant would not be easy to acquire. Steve finished the comments out by stating that GAATN would be more likely to accommodate them if they could improve their planning process.

Agenda Item No. 9:

Confirm date, time and location for the next regular Board meeting as April 2, 2001 at 1:30 p.m. in room 517 of the Shapiro Building at LCRA on Lake Austin Blvd.

Steve Zoromsky confirmed that next month's meeting will be at LCRA in room 517 of the Shapiro Building.