

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

**625 East 10th Street, 6th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING HELD January 6, 2003
Lower Colorado River Authority
Shapiro Building Room 517
3701 Lake Austin Blvd**

Agenda Item No. 1:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patrick Jordan at 1:34 p.m.

The following Board members announced as present:

Patrick Jordan, on behalf of the City of Austin
Martha Riekenberg (alt.), on behalf of the City of Austin
Wayne Wedemeyer, on behalf of the University of Texas
Frederick Harris, on behalf of Austin Independent School District
Tom Lott, on behalf of the Lower Colorado River Authority
George Mirick (alt), on behalf of the University of Texas
John Kohlmorgan (alt.), on behalf of Austin Independent School District
Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College
Walter LaGrone, on behalf of Travis County

GAATN Personnel present:

Ronald Roberts, Project Coordinator
Ashley Caron, Project Manager
Stephen Fogel, GAATN Attorney

Agenda Item No. 2:

Citizen Communication

Chairman Jordan welcomed Heidi Cottingham from CoCom Cabling Systems to the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 3:

Approval of December 9, 2002 Board Minutes

There were no changes required in the draft minutes. Tom Lott made the motion to accept the minutes with a second from Frederick Harris. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 4:

Discussion of and possible action regarding the Board Chairman Update.

Chairman Jordan passed around the award given GAATN from the Best of Texas Awards presented by the Center for Digital Government. Patrick shared that he wanted to take it to the Telecommunications Council and then presented the idea to share it among participants. Official icon for the award would be on the GAATN website.

A. Discussion of and Possible Action on SLA Continuation with the City of Austin.

It was noted by Patrick that this vote was for Fiscal Years 2003-2004 and that there was no increase. Wayne asked for summaries of the evaluations which Ron stated he would put together and email to everyone. Ron added that he had gotten the evaluations back from LCRA, AISD, Travis County, and Univ. of Texas. Patrick stated that he had not filled one out due to being the Chairperson and City of Austin representative, he added that ACC and DIR should be resent the form. Patrick moved to continue the SLA with a second from Tom Lott of LCRA. The motion passed unanimous.

Agenda Item No. 5:

Executive Session: Adjourn for closed session, under Tex Gov't Code section 551.071, to seek legal advise about pending or contemplated litigation for:

- A. Construction, equipment, and product warranty claims; and**
- B. Damage to GAATN Fiber Optic Cables, equipment, hardware, and other property. but not limited to:**

Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network v. Ascension Health and Gonzalo Portillo, Jr., No. 265725, Travis County Court at Law (teardown at Andrews Elementary on May 31, 2002); and

Greater Austin Area Telecommunications Network v. Oakwood Mobile Homes, Inc. d/b/a Oakwood Homes, and Paredes, Inc. d/b/a Superior Services, No. 266774, Travis County Court at Law (teardown at Daffan Lane on September 6, 2002).

Reconvene for discussion and decisions, if any, on matters considered in closed session.

Patrick moved to Executive session at 1:48 p.m and reconvened to regular session at 2:14 p.m. Wayne moved to declassify the report by Larry Sellers and was seconded by Frederick Harris. The motion passed unanimous.

Agenda Item No. 6:

Discussion of and possible action regarding the Financial Report and budget issues from AISD.

Frederick Harris stated that AISD was closed through the holidays and had no report to distribute. Patrick stated that review of both reports would then be done at the February Board meeting.

Agenda Item No. 7:

Discussion of and possible action regarding the Technical Subcommittee Update.

Tom Lott shared that much of the discussion at the meeting had been on the report from Larry Sellers. Based on his report the decision to replace splice cases was made. Ashley stated that she had authorized replacement checking up to \$20,000 at the meeting to be done by CoCom. Condition was to be summarized and brought back on where and how to proceed. Total replacement costs were estimated at \$250,000. Heidi stated that costs were more favorable if the cases could be bought in bulk. Tom shared that Larry had volunteered to stay on examining cases but the value of this effort could not be seen by the Board. However, if there were more unexplained breaks in the network then it was recommended to seek his assistance at that time. John stated that the cases had been determined to be the incorrect type for GAATN use and also many were installed incorrectly by the various contractors at the time. Tom noted that they had been accepted already so recourse seemed a very distant prospect.

Patrick asked if the ZNET conduit had been discussed which it had per Tom. Wayne provided a spreadsheet showing how GAATN could pay for the conduit while backing out the City of Austin's portion. The spreadsheet had been reviewed by the City of Austin and deemed acceptable per Patrick. Taking out the 25.36% of the City's payment meant the conduit would cost GAATN around \$409,967.85. Patrick noted that the percentage was based on today's network right numbers-which had not changed for the city more than 1% since GAATN began. Patrick then stated that he would need a vote of intent to generate an RCA to take to the City's Telecommunication Council then a bill of sale would have to be generated, all of which would have to go to City Council for approval. Patrick estimated this would take from 60-90 days. Wayne Wedemeyer of the University of Texas moved to purchase the ZNET conduit from the city for \$409,967.85. For clarification it was stated that the actual conduit is 2 (two) one and a quarter inch conduits consisting of approximately 28,000 linear feet. Inclusive with the conduits is the purchase of 22 manholes for use by the GAATN agency. Payment is to be generated from the GAATN general fund balance for fiscal years 2002-2003 and is to be one check to the City of Austin. The motion was seconded by Walter LaGrone of Travis County and carried a unanimous vote. Patrick stated that the purchase of the conduit would prevent more street cuts and was a cost savings for GAATN.

Agenda Item No. 8:

Discussion of and possible action regarding the Network Manager's Update.

- A. Replacing Splice Cases**
- B. Treaty Oak Hardening**

Ashley began by noting that the holding account had now changed due to the vote on the purchase of the ZNET conduit from the City of Austin. She then presented spreadsheets to show how she hoped to reduce the holding account over the next 3 years. There was a lot of discussion on projects and what fiscal year they were to be completed. Patrick noted that he would like to see Treaty Oak hardened against disaster and also the BIN extension since these had both been discussed at length by the Technical Subcommittee and the Board. Walter noted that the desired reductions were feasible but that he did not see them taking place until fiscal years 2005-2006. Ashley noted that splice case repairs could also be done this year, a project the Technical Subcommittee was behind. Discussion moved to budgeting decisions and various choices to reduce the general fund while keeping adequate funds for projects. Patrick suggested setting an income level and establishing a \$900,000 threshold for projects this year, also inserting a fund balance projects line into the budget.

The network rights were then chatted up at length. Some discrepancies were noted by Gary Weseman and also Walter and Wayne. Specifically there were areas where presence was not listed but that there were sites for those participants. Wayne moved to define presence as strands or sites, seconded by Frederick Harris and passing unanimous. Ashley was then instructed by Patrick to recheck the list with Heidi's help and then email it out. The minor corrections would not have to deter a vote on the rights which had to be done as soon as possible. As it was already 4:30, Wayne voted to extend the meeting 10 minutes, seconded by Patrick and subsequent unanimous vote. Gary made a motion to approve the replacement of the splice cases not to exceed \$250,000, seconded by Wayne. Motion was unanimous. Patrick then moved to begin the first phase of the Treaty Oak Hardening, not to exceed \$105,000 in the current budget year. This was seconded by Walter and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 9:

Confirm date, time and location for the next regular Board meeting as February 3, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in room 517 of the Shapiro Building at LCRA on Lake Austin Blvd.

Time and location for next meeting was confirmed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.