

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

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING HELD March 9, 2021 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858, Conference ID 620 481 052#

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

GAATN Board Chairman Dain Herbat called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

The following announced as present at the start of the meeting:

Robert Saddler, on behalf of LCRA

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin

Syd Falk, GAATN's attorney

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

A quorum was established at roll call.

Ruben Reyes, on behalf of City of Austin – joined at 1:36 p.m.

Anthony Breckenridge, on behalf of City of Austin – joined at 1:36 p.m.

GAATN Contractors:

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications

2. Citizen Communications: There were no citizen communications.

3. Review and Approve the minutes for the Board Meeting of February 9, 2021

Gary Weseman moved to approve the draft minutes from the February 9, 2021 Board Meeting as presented; Jaime Guerra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Board Chairperson Update – Discussion and possible action regarding:

A. GAATN network severe weather update

Frank discussed the recent severe weather in Central Texas and stated that the GAATN Network fared very well. He said management had the maintenance contractor do an emergency three-day inspection of the entire network. During that inspection two issues were found that were not service impacting. The first issue was an Austin Energy service drop that came down into the vicinity of GAATN's line. The second issue was a span of C1N started to sag too low and caused damage to a splice case; the sag was corrected and the case was replaced. John asked how the damage was communicated to the members; Frank said he sent emails out to the members about the emergency inspection, but since the two issues were not service impacting, there were no alerts about them. Jaime asked if there are any lessons learned; Frank said overall the biggest lesson would be the loss of power and how to work around that going forward. Frank said there was no loss of communication between network management and the maintenance contractor and members. Frank said that GAATN may want to incorporate a radio system as they look at their disaster recovery plan. Steve asked

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about the generator for the future backup NOCC and getting fuel to it during a similar situation. Frank said that both NOCCs would have to go down for the network to have failure, and that both NOCCs will have a PDU system that is battery operated and will kick in during a power failure to allow up to four hours for someone to arrive onsite. He said that management has been reviewing the generator submittals from the construction contractor and management will be looking into a maintenance contract for the backup NOCC and generator. He said management will look into the fuel issue, but that in the history of the location where the backup NOCC will be, it has only lost power three times. Carlos said the generator at the main NOCC runs both the GAATN room and the other communications inside the building. He noted that the generator for the backup NOCC will run on natural gas so there will not be a need to get fuel to the new generator since it will be on a gas tap. Steve said that management should look at a tap that would allow a natural gas truck to be brought in if the City loses natural gas from the tap; Frank said he believes the location has extra propane on hand for that situation and that he will look into this. Steve asked if the generators will be exercised periodically, how often will they be maintained and have fuel replaced, and how often will load transfer be tested. Carlos said they will be exercised quarterly and the COA data center operations (DCO) team will be responsible for that; COA has a maintenance contractor for the data centers and management is working with the COA DCO team to include GAATN's backup NOCC on that contract. Frank clarified that the generator at the backup NOCC will be exclusive to GAATN. Dain said he would like management to put together a generator standard operating procedure. Steve said management needs to verify that there are alarms when everything is transferred to the generator when power is lost and that alarms are generated when the generator fails to exercise. Jaime asked if the NOCCs rely on chilled water; Frank said nothing on either NOCC operates off of chilled water. Carlos said the backup NOCC will have its own HVAC in the room. Dain said he was very pleased with how well GAATN fared during the weather event and that speaks to how well management has managed the environment and the work by the contractors.

B. GAATN Cap Metro agreement

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Code section 551.071 for attorney consultation. Upon reconvening in open session, John Kohlmorgan moved to allow the GAATN Board Chair to execute an agreement with Cap Metro once the insurance matters are resolved; Gary Weseman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Draft Guidance for Entity-Specific Projects and corresponding draft agreement

Syd said he is still waiting on DIR's comments. Once he has comments from all entities, he will make the revisions to the draft agreement for circulation to the members. He said he is very close to having a final version for the Board to consider. Steve said he spoke with their attorneys last week and reiterated the importance of this task and he will follow up with them again.

D. Property damage claim against Asplundh for damage to C1N at Willamette Drive

This item was discussed in executive session under Texas Government Code section 551.071 for attorney consultation. Upon reconvening in open session, no further discussion was held or action taken.

5. Network Manager's Update:

A. GAATN Backup NOCC status update

Frank reported that everything is on schedule and the NOCC is still in line to be completed in August. He said the project is in the submittal phase at the moment and management is

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reviewing all of the final submittals. Dain asked Frank to present the schedule at the next Board meeting, so everyone can see the timeline and what milestones to expect next.

B. Project status report

Frank reported on the following upcoming/recently completed projects:

- A2N Re-route at Sabine between 4th and 6th – completed 3/2/21
- A1N/A2N/SRN/UT – Civil Courthouse – will be brought to next Technical meeting
- B2S TxDOT SH71 east of SH130 and Ross Road – scheduled to complete 3/11/21. This project was delayed due to the severe weather and only affects Travis County.
- SRN Permanent repair at IH35 and Camino LaCosta – this project will involve a highway crossing due to a pole transfer, which will take place on Sunday, 3/14/21, and Carlos will be onsite to ensure everything goes smoothly. There is no anticipated impact to the network.
- A1N/A2N Re-route to Convention Center – this was delayed due to a DIR request. It was approved and scheduled, but due to concerns regarding the legislative session, DIR requested it be postponed. Frank noted that this project is not the normal one day splice next day test and would more likely require a three-day window to complete. He said there will be some additional costs due to the delay because permits were already in place and lane closures approved and now they will expire and have to be redone. JC Communications will speak regarding the additional costs at the next Technical meeting.

C. Job budget report

Sarah reported that management is tracking 36 jobs totaling \$1.79 million with an expected recovery of \$276k. As it stands now, if all jobs are completed in FY21, GAATN will be overbudget by approximately \$95k.

6. **Executive Session:** At 2:11 p.m. Dain Herbat announced that the GAATN Board was adjourning for closed session, under Texas Government Code section 551.071, to seek legal advice or to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law (including but not limited to pending, anticipated or contemplated litigation concerning) regarding Agenda Items 4B and 4D.

At 2:28 p.m. Dain Herbat reconvened the GAATN Board in open session. Agenda Items 4B and 4D were the only items discussed. An updated roll call was taken and all members who were present at the original roll call were present at the updated roll call. A quorum was re-established.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding the financial report and current fiscal year budget issues. (AISD, 10 minutes):**

A. Financial Report

John reviewed the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2021. Ruben asked about the budget and how it was trending. John said that, from Sarah's report, GAATN is on track for this fiscal year. Dain suggested that management put together a budget presentation for the new members, and to refresh the older members, to be presented at a future Board meeting.

8. **Review of action items for network management and/or GAATN legal from this meeting:**

Frank reviewed the following action items from this meeting:

- Draft generator SOP, taking items mentioned by Steve into account
- Present backup NOCC schedule at the next Board meeting
- In-depth review of GAATN's budget report in the next couple of months

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- 9. Confirm date, time, and location for the next regular Board meeting on April 6, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Teleconference.**

The time, date and location for the next regular Board meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.