

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

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

October 4, 2022 1:30 p.m.

LCRA Service Center at 3505 Montopolis, Austin, Texas 78744

Building A, Room A502/503

Teams Videoconference link provided 72 hours prior to meeting on homepage of [www.gaatn.org](http://www.gaatn.org)

Remote audio-only option for public access: (512) 831-7858, Access Code: 843 444 17#

**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:

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR (remote)

John Greiner, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote)

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College (remote)

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)

Leslye Conoley, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County (on site)

Anthony Breckenridge, on behalf of City of Austin (remote)

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin (remote)

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Sarah Eichelberger, on behalf of GAATN (remote)

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN(remote)

Syd Falk, GAATN attorney (on site)

A quorum was established at roll call.

Members joining after roll call:

Robert Saddler, on behalf of LCRA (remote) – joined at 1:32 p.m.

Mike Lohrstorfer, on behalf of Austin ISD (remote) joined at 1:41 p.m.

Members of public/GAATN Contractors

Tina Little, on behalf of Austin Energy (remote)

Chris Gonzales, on behalf of BryComm (remote)

Doug Wilson, on behalf of JC Communications (remote)

**2. Citizen Communications:** There were no citizen communications.

**3. Review and Approve the minutes for the regular Board Meeting of September 13, 2022**

Dain Herbat moved to approve the draft minutes as presented; Jaime Guerra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**4. Consent Agenda items – Items recommended for approval at the September 20, 2022 Technical Subcommittee Meeting and Operational Contract Renewals**

Gary Weseman moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 4A and 4B; Jaime Guerra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**A. Seeking approval for third of three possible one-year renewals of GAATN Property Insurance (AISD 20RFP025) with Alamo Insurance Group DBA Brown & Brown San Antonio for the term of November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023 with an annual premium not to exceed \$66k**  
APPROVED ON CONSENT.

**B. Seeking approval for fourth of four possible one-year renewals of GAATN Underground Locate**

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**Services (AISD 19RFP031) with USIC, LLC for the term of January 27, 2023 through January 26, 2024  
with a per locate rate of \$25**

APPROVED ON CONSENT.

**5. Board Chairperson Update – Discussion and possible action regarding:**

**A. Status and history of Austin Energy poles for A1N Ronald Earl Building 192 upgrade projects**

Tina Little with Austin Energy (AE) discussed the eight AE topped poles (no electric on top) related to the Ronald Earl Building projects. She said that AE is underground in that area and what frequently happens is that the developer chooses to only relocate electrical underground, but not the communications lines. She said AE has slated those eight poles for removal which is why they denied reattachment to those poles the first several times GAATN applied years ago. However, she said they are now allowing GAATN to reapply for those poles to replace like for like fiber with the caveat that if something happens to the pole, such as a knock down or deterioration, they cannot guarantee that they will replace the pole. John Greiner asked what the process is when AE goes underground; Tina said those projects will go through the utility coordination process but she does not deal with underground and isn't familiar with the process. She said she doesn't know the history of why the communications lines were not placed underground by the developer. Dain asked Tina if there is any pathway with space for GAATN to go underground at this location. Tina said she doesn't know; Dain asked if there is someone she can point him to that can answer that question. Tina said GAATN can apply to replace those eight poles and then GAATN would own the new poles; she said GAATN could apply with City of Austin Right of Way (ROW) for these poles to be set in the same spot. She said it is kind of difficult but could be done. She said AE cannot sell the poles or give GAATN the poles. Frank said ROW previously denied for GAATN to replace those poles and said that if there are acceptable poles there, they will not approve excavation permits to replace poles. Frank said that sometimes the developers only relocate AE and there are hundreds of topped poles with AE, PEC and Bluebonnet. Frank said the only difference is that these eight AE poles are scheduled to be removed. Harold asked Tina if she knew when the poles are scheduled to be removed; Tina said she didn't know at this time. Frank said the challenge is that there are several lines attached to the poles with multiple service drops and AE has to coordinate with each of those communications companies. Frank said that AE does not allow communications lines in their conduit; but he will approach ROW to see if there is any available conduit in that area with space. Frank said he would like to get the AE underground contact from Tina to see if he and Dain could work with them to see if GAATN could have space in their conduit, but he doesn't anticipate that being a possibility. Syd asked Frank why ROW denied for GAATN to replace the poles; Frank said they would not approve the excavation permits for the pole replacement and said that GAATN needed to work it out with AE. Tina said she would be willing to meet with Frank and ROW department to see if they would reconsider; Frank said he would get something set up. Jaime said pole replacement would be much less excavation than trenching for underground conduit. Frank said another option is that management could approach some of the other communications companies on those poles to see if they would share in the cost of going joint underground. Tina said it's possible that AE has been underground at that location since the 80s or 90s; Frank said it was definitely before his time. Frank said that, if members don't have any objection, then management would proceed with applying to attach to those eight poles; Frank asked Tina if she could notify him as soon as she knows when those poles will be removed. Dain requested that an agenda item be added to the next Technical meeting regarding GAATN procedures for topped poles.

**B. Seeking approval for A1N – 192 Upgrade at Travis County Ronald Earl Building Input GAATN-funded project at a cost not to exceed \$65k to be funded by FY23 MAC budget**

Dain asked if agenda items 5B, 5C, and 5D were affected by the topped poles. Carlos said 5B and 5D are but not 5C. Frank said that the Tech committee could discuss the topped poles at the Tech and

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then management could bring these projects back to the Board for approval. Dain said that there may be a redesign required depending on the discussion during the Tech meeting. Jaime said that if AE does not approve for GAATN to attach to those poles or if right of way does not approve to replace the poles then GAATN may have to go underground here. Frank said that management would still need approval to apply to attach to those poles and the cost of the engineering/pole load analysis that the contractor would incur; he said they are part of the A1N upgrades. Gary asked if Frank could first have the meeting with Tina and ROW to see if GAATN can replace the poles. Dain said he wants to ensure that GAATN's fiber is on supported infrastructure. There was no action taken on this agenda item.

**C. Seeking approval for A1N – 192 Upgrade at Travis County Ronald Earl Building Output GAATN-funded project at a cost not to exceed \$58k to be funded by FY23 MAC budget**

This agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

**D. Seeking approval for A2N – 192 Upgrade at Travis County Ronald Earl Building GAATN-funded project at a cost not to exceed \$47k to be funded by FY23 MAC budget**

This agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

**E. City of Austin Network Management resource request**

Frank reviewed a presentation proposing the addition of a fourth full time equivalent for the GAATN/COA network management team. Jaime asked if management had any data to show about the increase of workload. Frank said that management will provide that to members prior to the next Board meeting. Steve said he thinks this is an important request. Dain asked if members can think of any other desired modifications for the SLA; he asked members to email him those items if they have any.

**F. Property damage claim against JD Abrams/Lone Star Paving for damage to C1N at IH-35 and Rutherford on 9/20/21**

Syd reported that the attorney for the subcontractor requested more information which was provided to him. Gunnar has not heard back from him since sending the requested information so he is drafting a complaint to file the previously authorized lawsuit. Syd said once the suit is served, they have until the Monday after 20 days have passed to file their answer. He will bring another update to the next Board meeting.

**6. Network Manager's Update:**

**A. Project status report**

Frank said there are no changes to this report with the exception of the inclusion of the AE application status and corresponding application number for each project if applicable.

**B. Job budget report**

Sarah reported that management is tracking 34 jobs totaling \$1.76 million. So far for FY23, there are three jobs completed and \$110k invoiced.

**7. Executive Session:** There was no executive session.

**8. Update Roll Call (only if executive session called):** There was no updated roll call.

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

**A. Financial Report**

Sarah reviewed the financial report for the month ending 8/31/22. She noted that GAATN has taken in \$274k in revenue to date for FY23 and expended \$33k.

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**10. Meeting and Action Items Summary:**

Frank reviewed the following action items from this meeting:

- Contact COA ROW regarding replacement of the eight stub poles for the REB projects.
- Add agenda item for GAATN procedures for topped poles.
- Send workload increase data for network management to members prior to next Board meeting.
- Members should send Dain any modifications have previously noted they would like to see for the network management SLA.
- Follow up with LCRA regarding conference phone issues during meetings.

**11. Confirm date, time, and location for the next regular Board meeting on November 1, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at LCRA Service Center 3505 Montopolis Austin, TX and via Video Conference on Microsoft Teams.**

The date, time and location for the next regular Board meeting were confirmed; the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.