

# GREATER AUSTIN AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (GAATN) INTERLOCAL AGENCY

## GAATN SPECIAL-CALLED BOARD MEETING

April 21, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Via Teleconference at (512) 831-7858 Conference ID: 774 225 081#

### 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 roll call:

Frank Ammons, on behalf of GAATN

Carlos DeMatos, on behalf of GAATN

Dain Herbat, on behalf of Travis County

Jaime Guerra, on behalf of UT-Austin

Gary Weseman, on behalf of Austin Community College

Steve Pyle, on behalf of State of Texas DIR

Bruce Hermes, on behalf of City of Austin

John Kohlmorgan, on behalf of Austin ISD

Syd Falk, GAATN attorney

Bo Kinsey, on behalf of Travis County

Harold Nall, on behalf of UT-Austin

Robert Saddler, on behalf of LCRA

A quorum was established at roll call.

#### 2. Citizen Communications There were no citizen communications.

Wayne Wedemeyer, on behalf of UT-Austin

Chris Gonzales, on behalf BryComm

#### 3. Review and approve minutes from the special Board meeting of March 24, 2020

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

#### 4. Consent Agenda Items from the April 7, 2020 Technical Subcommittee Meeting:

##### A. ACC A1N Connection Project entity funded

##### B. AISD C1N new node at Co-location Data Center entity funded

Gary Weseman moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented; Jaime Guerra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 5. Board Chairperson's Update – discussion and possible action on:

##### A. Seeking approval for ACC GAATN Project

Per Frank Ammons, this item is for the placement of 450' of armored node cable to be funded by GAATN for the previously approved ACC A1N connection project as discussed at the last tech meeting. Gary Weseman motioned to approve funding of a replacement node cable to UT Walter Webb Hall on A1N funded by GAATN. Bruce Hermes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

##### B. AISD C1N Node Splices for Co-location Data Center Project

Per Carlos DeMatos, this item serves to notify the board that 12 AISD strands across all the cases will be spliced into to shorten their ring and improve dB losses. A GAATN Alert email went out on 4/20/2020. Dain asked if this project will touch GAATN ring cable or only AISD node cable. Carlos

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answered that it will touch the ring strands for AISD in every case on C1N. Jaime asked if GAATN has a need for splice case audits during the course of work. Carlos answered that a complete audit is not included in the scope of work and a complete audit had already been completed recently. Carlos added that this is four days worth of work for 37 cases across 21 campuses. There was no further discussion on this item.

### **C. GAATN Network Management Resource**

Frank Ammons informed the board that one FTE from the three-person network management team is currently on extended leave. As such, he has spoken to the City of Austin for a resource to assist the network management team to meet their 3-person SLA. He received permission to utilize a former GAATN resource for 10 hours/week with the caveat that a full-time replacement will be soon onboarded for long-term coverage. Per Bruce, the city will only fund the resource temporarily and he encouraged GAATN to fund the resource. Frank stated the resource will work 20 hours/week. Gary asked what the hourly rate is going to be. Frank answered that he is still finalizing the numbers with the contracting agency. Bruce asked the board to anticipate an expense of up to \$12,000 for twelve weeks of coverage. Per Dain with Syd's confirmation, the amount falls within the network manager's spending authority. Gary voiced that since the board is already gathered, they should set a precedent to approve the funding of a temporary position up to \$12,000 without using the network manager's spending authority. Bruce Hermes moved to authorize the network management team to spend \$15,000 (\$12,000 plus contingency) for a period of twelve weeks for temporary and partial staff replacement during the COVID-19 crisis; Dain Herbat seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **D. GAATN Backup NOCC solicitation documents**

Frank Ammons shared the tentative schedule for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) for the GAATN New Operations Control Center. He urged the board to review the plan. Dain asked who is going to be scoring the bid. Frank answered that it will be himself or Carlos and encouraged Board Members to sit on the panel. Dain asked the board to get feedback to Frank as soon as possible.

### **E. Cap Metro Agreement**

Syd shared a status update that it seems like there is little flexibility in the agreement based on other Cap Metro agreements. Frank reminded the board that he sent Syd's written legal advice memo to them via email after his review of similar agreements with Austin Energy. Dain asked Frank if moving forward with the licensing agreement with Cap Metro still provides a benefit to GAATN. Frank answered, yes there are still advantages to the agreement, specifically regarding entering their right-of-way. Previous flexibility regarding entering Cap Metro right-of-way no longer exists as of two years ago. Even though GAATN only works in Cap Metro crossings an average of 1-2 times per year, there is benefit in having the agreement in place to be able to enter or cross the right of way if the cable path is there. It is a necessity. Robert Saddler asked the number of current crossings the network has with Cap Metro right-of-way. Frank estimated 12 or 13 aerial crossings. Gary asked if Cap Metro is going to back-charge GAATN for previous crossings. Frank said that it could come up in negotiations and Syd said that the current agreement doesn't speak to any back charging. Bruce asked how many linear feet the agreement accounts for. Frank answered that it will vary, and most aerial spans are between 100' to 250' for a small, but not inconsequential, total amount. Frank reminded the board that the license agreement is project-specific and that every crossing will require a new agreement. Robert Saddler asked if payment to Cap Metro will be handled through GAATN or directly from the entity involved. Frank said there will be further discussion on how to handle payment and funding. Syd also advised the board that there is an advantage for GAATN to carry the cost since there's always a possibility that other entities may need to utilize the crossing. Gary agreed and proposed to investigate each crossing and up-count the fiber in case there is a need to add on later, without

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having to enter into an additional agreement with Cap Metro. Bo advised the board that Travis County is overbuilding this crossing for exactly that reason.

- 6. Executive Session** (if an executive session is necessary, Board members and other authorized participants will use a different teleconference line not accessible to the general public; once the executive session is concluded, the meeting will resume on the Teleconference number given above): **Adjourn for closed session, under one or more of Tex. Gov't Code sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076 and/or one or more of sections 418.175 - 418.181 ("H.B. 9"), to seek legal advice or to preserve confidentiality as permitted by law (including but not limited to pending, anticipated or contemplated litigation concerning):**
- A. Construction, equipment, and product warranty claims;
  - B. Damage to GAATN fiber optic cables, equipment, hardware, and other property;
  - C. Contractual, tort or other legal or equitable claims by or against GAATN; or
  - D. The procedures and operations of the Board or the organization;
  - E. GAATN Management and Operation  
    And/or to consider matters concerning:
    - F. Real property purchase, exchange, lease, easements or value;
    - G. Gifts or donations;
    - H. Personnel;
    - I. Security devices, security personnel or security procedures or protocols; or
    - J. Issues involving GAATN physical plant detail made confidential by law
    - K. Or other matters as permitted by the Texas Open Meetings Act

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

There was no executive session.

- 7. Confirm date, time, and location for the next Board meeting as May 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at LCRA Service Center at 3505 Montopolis, Building A, Room A502/503, Austin, Texas 78744 or via teleconference if necessary.**
- Dain confirmed the date and time for the next regular Board meeting but said the meeting will be held via teleconference. The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 PM.