



TOWN OF LEDYARD

741 Colonel Ledyard
Highway
Ledyard, CT 06339-1511

File #: 23-1160

Agenda Date: 3/1/2023

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FINANCIAL BUSINESS REQUEST (FBR)

Motion/Request:

MOTION to recommend the Town Council appropriate \$xx,xxx to Account #21050101-58790-G0015 (Library Capital - New Equipment - Misc. State Grants) upon the receipt of a State Library Grant and E-Rate Funds.

In addition, authorize the funds to be expended for the Gales Ferry Library E-fiber installation; and authorize the Mayor to enter into a 20-year Agreement with Connecticut Education Network (CEN).

Background:

Town Council Meeting 1/12/2022

The Town Council authorized the Mayor to submit an application for E-Rate funds and a matching State Library grant to cover the installation cost of a fiber network at Gales Ferry Library along with a request for E-Rate funds to supplement up to 50% of the annual maintenance and internet cost. Gales Ferry Library e-fiber installation.

The Gales Ferry Library was not on a fiberoptic network and when a number of people were using technology devices at the Gales Ferry Library they get kicked off the internet because they were exceeding the upload and download of the Library's current cable internet carrier.

The Connecticut State Library was strongly encouraging the Gales Ferry Library to get on a fiberoptic network. The installation cost of the fiber network from the Hub in Ledyard Center the Gales Ferry Library to connect to the Connecticut Educational Network (CEN) would be \$91,900 and the equipment would cost was \$10,758.

The Connecticut State Library had money available to help libraries install a fiber network through the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Program; and would provide a match thru the E-Rate grant funding so that the entire installation cost (\$91,900) and equipment (\$10,758) would be funded.

The Schools and the Bill Library were currently receiving excellent internet service from the Connecticut Educational Network (CEN), which was a high-speed fiber optic network, that was independent from ComCast and Frontier.

The E-Rate grant was a Federal Program that was funded by the telephone services. A certain percentage of everyone's phone bill was paid to Universal Service Fund (USF), therefore, these funds were not actually coming from the State of Connecticut. Therefore, he stated that this was a good opportunity to improve internet service at the Gales Ferry Library.

This grant funding would also pay the \$7,200 annual fee for fiber maintenance for the first year. Beginning the

second year and each year thereafter, the Library would be eligible to apply for the E-Rate discount, which has been 50% for the last few years. After the E-Rate discount the Connecticut Educational Network annual fiber maintenance fee would be \$3,600 per year, minus the current \$828, (cable internet) for a net annual cost of \$2,772 for each year of the 20-year contract. Transitioning from the cable internet service to the Connecticut Educational Network would be a net difference of \$55,000 during the 20-year contract. Because the funding would be coming from the Universal Service Fund this was a good opportunity to move technology forward for the town, noting that the purpose of the Universal Service Fund was to provide access to everyone who needed it regardless of where they were.

Department Comment/Recommendation:

Both parties have signed off on the Connecticut State Library Grant totaling \$51,838. This includes half of the expense for the 20-year Dark Fiber IRU Lease, and the full cost of all network equipment, fiber operations and maintenance, along with any additional equipment needed. The Universal Service Administrative Co. has committed \$36,950 to this project for the remaining half of the fiber lease. Both grant funding sources combined totals \$88,788 and will fully fund the cost to install and lease a fiber connection at the Gales Ferry Library.

Finance Director Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)

Mayor Comment/Recommendation:

(type text here)