



## Washington Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors

*A professional organization of individuals and organizations serving citizens in the development, regulation, and administration of cable television and other telecommunication systems.*

### WATOA Board Meeting Minutes December 18, 2024

1. Call to Order – 2:31pm
2. Roll Call of Officers

WATOA Board Position	2021 Board Member	Present	Absent
President	Jon Funfar, City of Pasco	x	
Vice-President	Mike Connor, City of Kirkland	x	
Board Secretary	Megan Hutton, Pierce County	x	
Treasurer	Alice Lawson, City of Seattle	x	
Regional Rep: District 1 (North & Puget)	Ben Skudlarek, City of Bellingham		x
Regional Rep: District 2 (King)	Patti Belle, City of Kent	x	
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	George Geyer, Kitsap County		x
Regional Rep: District 4 (Southwest)	Jim Demmon, City of Vancouver	x	
Regional Rep: District 5 (Rainier Valley)	Jon Baker, Pierce County	x	
Regional Rep: District 6 (Central)	Ben Faubion, City of Ellensburg	x	
Regional Rep: District 7 (Northeast)	Jessica Fisher, City of Spokane		x
Regional Rep: District 8 (Tri-Cities)	Mark Ingham, City of Richland	x	
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools	x	
Past-President	Jeff Lueders, City of Tacoma	x	
NATOA Rep (non-voting)	Chris Jaramillo, King County	x	

3. Approval of the agenda
  - a. Approved
4. Approval of minutes
  - a. 11/20/24 minutes approved (Jeff move, Patti second)
5. President's report – Jon Funfar
  - a. Jon welcomed Candy Galindo from City of Mount Vernon, who will fill the North & Puget position in 2025, when Ben Skudlarek moves to VP. She joined as a guest today. Welcome!
6. Vice President – Mike Connor
  - a. Mike is looking forward to the President's position next year.
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
  - a. The ballot includes bylaws changes.
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
  - a. Previous balance – 9/30/24
    - i. \$35,747.33
  - b. Adjusted ending balance – 11/30/24
    - i. \$18,727.68
      1. Pending payments \$900
      2. Pending deposits \$2100.00
  - c. Average WATOA expenditures in one year (not including conference costs) = \$3,500
  - d. Board to consider another bank CD
    - i. Our previous one earlier this year entered at \$15,000 and ended at \$15,374.83 (7-month CD, earned \$347.83 interest at 4.21%)

- ii. Alice will look at rates and put together a proposal that the Board can approve by email.
      - e. Update on City/County renewals: 33 agencies/79 members
      - f. Conference costs
        - i. The only outstanding revenue is a sponsor payment from Astound. Alice is reaching out to them again. The rest of conference costs have been settled.
          - 1. Total conference expenditures \$17,069.65 (\$12,935.47 was conf rooms, AV, meals)
  - 9. Committee Reports
    - a. Elections
      - i. WATOA has received 20 votes for our annual election. We need 23 to certify. Get those in if you haven't yet, thanks!
      - ii. Alice will send email announcing results in early January. Board will approve results at the January meeting. New positions take effect at the first 2025 meeting.
    - b. Policy/Legal
      - i. Upcoming legislative session:
        - 1. Keep an eye out for Telecomm bills, but we know they have a lot of other priorities this session.
      - ii. State Broadband Office is interested in a technology neutral approach for any future fiber, satellite, Starlink options, given the new federal administration coming in.
      - iii. HB3577 federal bill that would touch fiber, wireless, pole use, ROW, etc that takes away local control. The concern was it was steamrolled through the House with no input by local governments.
      - iv. Conversations with Sabrina Roach (makedigitalequity.com)
        - 1. Start conversations about ROW regulation in WA, looking at examples in OR.
        - 2. I also remind that there is *no prohibition on broadband franchising* in WA state; what the Code prohibits is local governments from imposing *any fee for use of the right-of-way* (other than cost-recovery fees that can be directly related to receiving and approving a permit, license, and franchise, to inspecting plans and construction, etc). Federal Cable Franchise law (which is a named exception in 35.21.860) allow us to charge a general franchise fee (i.e., 'rent' for use of the ROW by cable systems), but the RCW prohibits that for any other form of telecom service provider with facilities in ROW.
10. New Business
  - a. The Board discussed some admin items related to changes in board seats coming up. Thank you to Chris Jaramillo and Jeff Lueders for their YEARS of service with WATOA!
  - b. We talked about
11. Good of the order
  - a. Jon Funfar is leaving Pasco for a new communications job with a Hanford contractor. We thank him and wish him well! He will transfer listserv oversight to Alice and Megan.
12. Next Meeting – January 22?? TBD. New president will send out a calendar apt.
13. Adjournment – 3:19pm