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Board Members

David Hopkins
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Timothy O'Hearn
Robert Lawton
Mark Rogus
Marcia Weber
Jack Wheeler
Howard Zingler
Alan Eusden
Carl Hayden

CEO

Steve Manning

March 27, 2018

State of New York
Authorities Budget Office
Post Office Box 2076
Albany, New York 12220-0076

RE: Southern Tier Network, Inc.
Employer ID No. 27-4516734

Gentlemen:

Enclosed with this e-mail you will find the 2017 Summary Results of Confidential Evaluation of Board Performance, 2017 List of Performance Goals, and Authority Mission Statement and 2017 Performance Measures.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Manning
CEO, Southern Tier Network, Inc.



Authority Mission Statement and Performance Measurements

Name of Public Authority: Southern Tier Network, Inc.

Public Authority's Mission Statement: *Through public / private partnerships, THE SOUTHERN TIER NETWORK strives to enrich the quality of life in the regions we serve by providing quality open access through high speed broadband connections.*

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- enable economic development in the region by attracting industry and encouraging the development of additional employment and job opportunities,
- enable enhanced scientific and educational research for universities, colleges, and schools encouraging economic growth
- enable the retention of existing businesses and industries,
- provide fiber infrastructure for perpetual, reliable and compliant county emergency management (E – 911) systems
- enable improved communications among health care professionals and providers
- expand broadband services to the rural and underserved markets in the region
- lessen the burdens of government
- enable collaboration and healthy partnerships with the private sector enhancing affordable service offerings throughout the region

Date Adopted: February 9, 2017

List of Performance Goals & Accomplishments (If additional space is needed, please attach):

OBJECTIVES YEARS 2016 - 2018:

- Provide infrastructure for carriers/service providers to introduce new and enhanced services into the communities we serve – ***presently 7 different carriers/service providers are purchasing STN strands of fiber to provide telecommunication services to customers.***
- Successful partnership with Yates County government officials building-out open access fiber throughout their County – ***74 additional miles of open access fiber constructed ahead of schedule and under budget creating a four county 334-mile fiber ring; Yates County joined Public Safety Governance Committee***
- Successful extension of the STN open access dark fiber network in support of the mission and goals of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council - ***an additional 144 miles of fiber constructed as of September 2017, through Tioga and Broome counties and into parts of Allegany and Tompkins counties; Connections into Cornell U., Binghamton U., Alfred U. have been made.***
- Establish connectivity with other regional networks that may emerge across New York State – ***the Southern Tier Network is planning interconnectivity with the Bradford County, Pa. Open Access network.***
- Create opportunities for the Southern Tier region to be globally competitive by offering high-speed fiber infrastructure – ***fiber infrastructure is built and ready for access; multiple meetings and informational sessions occur with IDA's, Economic Developers, County Legislatures and Chamber of Commerce. STN released a RFP Pilot – for positively addressing rural unserved/underserved residents. A small pilot will begin in early April 2018.***
- Establish a multi-county Public Safety Governance Committee to coordinate interoperability initiatives – ***this Committee has been formed and continues to meet; Current participating Counties - represented by their Public Safety/Emergency Management Directors - are Schuyler, Steuben, Yates and Chemung counties, along with STN Board member and CEO comprise the Committee. The Committee's has selected Mutualink as the first network application to be shared by the four counties – running over their private/secure fiber network. The Mutualink Pilot will commence in early April.***
- Expand a reliable customer base enabling long-term operational sustainability – ***this is an on-going pursuit.***

Additional questions:

1. Have the board members acknowledged that they have read and understood the mission of the public authority? Yes.
2. Who has the power to appoint the management of the public authority? The STN Board of Directors.
3. If the Board appoints management, do you have a policy you follow when appointing the management of the public authority? Yes.
4. Briefly describe the role of the Board and the role of management in the implementation of the mission. The Board and Management meet monthly to review progress in contracting with vendors, customers and construction of the network.
5. Has the Board acknowledged that they have read and understood the responses to each of these questions? Yes.

**Confidential Evaluation of STN Board Performance
Summary of Board Responses 2017**

Criteria	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree
Board members have a shared understanding of the mission and purpose of the Authority.	12			
The policies, practices and decisions of the Board are always consistent with this mission.	11	1		
Board members comprehend their role and fiduciary responsibilities and hold themselves and each other to these principles.	12			
The Board has adopted policies, by-laws, and practices for the effective governance, management and operations of the Authority and reviews these annually.	11	1		
The Board sets clear and measurable performance goals for the Authority that contribute to accomplishing its mission.	4	8		
The decisions made by Board members are arrived at through independent judgment and deliberation, free of political influence, pressure or self-interest.	12			
Individual Board members communicate effectively with executive staff so as to be well informed on the status of all important issues.	12			
Board members are knowledgeable about the Authority's programs, financial statements, reporting requirements, and other transactions.	9	3		
The Board meets to review and approve all documents and reports prior to public release and is confident that the information being presented is accurate and complete.	11	1		
The Board knows the statutory obligations of the Authority and if the Authority is in compliance with state law.	9	3		
Board and committee meetings facilitate open, deliberate and thorough discussion, and the active participation of members.	12			
Board members have sufficient opportunity to research, discuss, question and prepare before decisions are made and votes taken.	12			
Individual Board members feel empowered to delay votes, defer agenda items, or table actions if they feel additional information or discussion is required.	11	1		
The Board exercises appropriate oversight of the CEO and other executive staff, including setting performance expectations and reviewing performance annually.	10	2		
The Board has identified the areas of most risk to the Authority and works with management to implement risk mitigation strategies before problems occur.	11	1		
Board members demonstrate leadership and vision and work respectfully with each other.	12			

Name of Authority: Southern Tier Network, Inc.

Date Completed: March 2018

