

MINUTES OF NEBRASKA TRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 25, 2022 1:30 p.m. CDT
Location: Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street (Commission Hearing Room), Lincoln Nebraska

1. **Roll Call.** The Nebraska Telecommunications Relay Advisory Committee met on February 25, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at the Public Service Commission hearing room.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Tami Richardson-Nelson. The following committee members were present:

Tami Richardson-Nelson
Robert Feit
Norm Weverka
Commissioner Tim Schram

Introduction of Guests. From the Commission, Cullen Robbins, Director of Communications, Steve Stovall, Accountant/TRS Administrator, Jonathan Smith, Attorney representing legal support for TRS issues for the Commission, John Monroe, Executive and Technical Assistant, and Deb Collins (joining remotely), Media and Communications Manager; Karen Weverka attended from the public; Sharon Sinkler and Frances Beurivage interpreted the meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding the necessity of having captions. John Monroe indicated the age of the hearing room equipment prevents quality captioning but upgrades are being implemented for future meetings.

2. **Election of New Officers – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.**
Current Officers are Tami Richardson-Nelson (Chair) and Norm Weverka (Vice-Chair). Motion by Robert Feit to re-elect Tami and Norm for Chair/Vice-Chair, respectively and to close for vote. Motion approved by all members present.
3. **Approval of the Agenda.**
Motion by Robert Feit to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Norm Weverka. Agenda approved by all members present.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 29, 2021 Meeting.**
Motion by Robert Feit to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2021 meeting as presented. Seconded by Norm Weverka. Minutes approved by all members present.
5. **Determination of the Surcharge For July 1, 2022 Assessment Period: Docket C-5360, ‘In the Matter of the Commission on its own motion, seeking to determine the surcharge for the statewide Telecommunications Relay System (TRS) to be effective July 1, 2022.’ Hearing time is March 15, 2022 at 11:00 am (Steve Stovall):**

Steve provided two TRS surcharge assumptions at the two-cent (\$.02) and three-cent (\$.03) rates. Steve noted that minutes of use significantly increased again in December 2020 – May 2021. The projections beginning January 2022 take those increases into consideration. For NSTEP expenditures, column J, for October 2021 of the \$439,658 amount, \$419,361 is attributable to Verizon redemptions. These redemptions are

comprised of two periods – 1) \$348,447 for June 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 redemptions and 2) \$70,914 for July 1, 2021 – August 30, 2021. The thirteen-month average of \$348,447 is \$26,804 and for \$70,914 an average of \$35,457 for those two months. The December 2021 expenditures of \$37,235 comprises \$29,436 of Verizon September redemptions with the remainder for all other voucher redemptions. Consequently, the \$42,000 projections beginning January 2022 for NSTEP comprises \$30,000 for Verizon redemptions and \$12,000 for all other redemptions (including the other three non-Verizon wireless providers).

The fund balance assuming the surcharge stays at three-cents (\$.03) approaches \$487,520 for FY 2022-23 and declines to \$237,387 assuming a two-cent (\$.02) rate. Considering the uncertainty regarding the COVID environment and the need for more consistent payment history for Verizon redemptions, Steve proposed to keep the surcharge at three cents (\$.03). Concerns were expressed by those present that as the fund attains higher levels it will invite ‘raiding’ of those funds by the state.

Recommendation by Norm Weverka for the surcharge to remain at its current three-cent (\$.03) level. Seconded by Robert Feit. Upon carried by all members present. Mr. Stovall prepared a recommendation letter for Tami’s signature.

6. **Public Comment:** A concern was expressed regarding NextGen 911. It appears there may be some misinformation being communicated from NCDHH regarding implementation of video capabilities. Commissioner Schram indicated he will follow up with John Wyvill.
7. **Adjourn.** Meeting adjourned 1:55 p.m. by Tami-Richardson-Nelson.