November 17, 2015

Request for Waiver – USAC Form 471
Schools and Libraries – CC Docket NO. 02-6

Contact Information:
Renee Van Nort
Fairbanks North Star Borough Public Libraries
1215 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK. 99701-4313
E-mail: rvannort@fnslibrary.us
Phone: 907-459-1025

Background Information:
Original Filing of Form 471 – February 26, 2015 - For FY 2015-2016
Application #: 1009620
Billed Entity Name: Fairbanks-N Star Borough LIB
Billed Entity Number: 145262
FCC Registration Number: 0013695010
Type of Application: Library
Recipients of Service: Public

Funding Commitment Decision (FCDL) and Funding Request Numbers (FRN) requesting waiver for:
FCDL Date: 5/21/2015
FRN’s: 2740657 and 2740576

Reason for Waiver FRN 2740657:

Subsequent to filing Form 471 in February several changes occurred that affected the FNSB’s 471 filing. 1) Bill Galbraith, FNSB’s e-rate filer for the last 20+ years retired on April 30, 2015 leaving myself, Renee Van Nort, to learn the e-rate filing processes. 2) Mayor Hopkins and the FSNB Assembly requested and approved an increase in bandwidth for the Noel Wien Library from 30 Mbps to 80 Mbps during the budget process in April 2015, the Assembly voted on this change and adopted the FY2015-2016 on May 14, 2015. This change occurred only 7 months in to a three-year contract with ACS. The 3-year contract was the result of a competitive process for fiber optic internet services to BOTH Noel Wien Library and the new North Pole Branch Library (Form 470 filing #577980001237846). The new North Pole Branch Library is a completely new building in a new location in North Pole Alaska. Neither the old library nor the new library that was built in North Pole had fiber optic internet services available to them; previously we used copper lines in North Pole. It was a difficult competitive process for the bidding vendors since fiber optic lines would have to be laid to the new facility. In order to get vendors to bid we had to offer a solid three-year contract to the winning bidder so that the vendors could, hopefully, recoup the costs of bringing fiber the 15-20 miles it took to get to the facility. ACS provided a very competitive bid with little to no up-front cost for bringing the fiber to the new facility with the guarantee of a 3-
year contract. The RFP for the internet services asked the bidders to provide a minimum of 25 Mbps for Noel Wien and 15 Mbps for North Pole Branch Library. ACS offered 30 Mbps and 20 Mbps for each library respectively for a much lower rate than the libraries had previously been paying. The Borough did not feel too bad when ACS quoted a fairly large increase in rate for Noel Wien to go from 30 Mbps to 80 Mbps knowing ACS had gone above and beyond to bring fiber optic lines to the libraries and the Borough was still paying $7,440 less than it had been paying for internet services under the prior contracts that had also gone through a competitive process.

Due to the timing of these two major events, the retirement of a key employee and the Assembly’s action to increase internet speed rates at the library, the 471 that was filed in February 2014, no longer accurately reflects the true cost of services that the libraries are paying in FY 2015-2016 and future years through the end of the contract term of June 30, 2017. Therefore, the Borough respectfully requests the original funding commitment decision be amended; OR allow FNSB to file a new Form 471 for FY 2015-2016. The difference in funding for internet services in FY2015-2016 (FRN 2740657) would be an increase of $11,880. (Original FRN approved discounted amount $5,400 – Amended discounted amount would be $17,280 ($28,800 at 60%)

**Reason for Waiver FRN 2740576:**

The original 471 application was filed in February 2015. At that time, the Fairbanks North Star borough (FNSB or Borough) was still working through all the nuances of opening a new library facility. FNSB had to set up a phone system in the new building and transfer some of the phone lines and numbers from the old facility to the new facility. It was too early in the transition to have a good feel for what the change in phone costs would be, therefore, Bill Galbraith filed the 471 based on phone costs at the old library. The final costs, as they settled out, ended up being quite a bit higher for the new facility. The library went from a 4,520 square foot facility to a 18,420 square foot facility with substantially more patron services. The 471 filed in February 2015 estimated a pre-discount amount of $7,155.84 for phone serviced, $2,862.34 discounted. The true cost of phone service at the new facility is $16,498.08 pre-discount, $6,599.23 discounted. This is an increase in discounted costs of $3,736.89.

The Borough respectfully requests the original funding commitment decision be amended; OR allow the Borough to file a new Form 471 for FY2015-2016.