

**STAYTON COOPERATIVE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY**

**RESTATED  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
of April 24, 2003**

**ARTICLE I**

The name of the Cooperative is STAYTON COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY. The duration of the Cooperative shall be perpetual.

**ARTICLE II**

The Members of the Cooperative adopted the Restated Articles of Incorporation herein on April 24, 2003, in the manner prescribed by the Oregon Cooperative Corporation Act, ORS Chapter 62.

**ARTICLE III**

The purposes for which this Cooperative is organized shall be to provide communications and related services.

The Cooperative may conduct any lawful business for which cooperatives may be organized under the Oregon Cooperative Corporation Act.

**ARTICLE IV**

This Cooperative shall have no capital stock. This Cooperative shall admit members upon direct payment of a membership fee, not to exceed \$1.00, which the directors shall, from time to time, establish and upon such other conditions as may be prescribed in the bylaws or resolutions of directors.

**ARTICLE V**

In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, the assets of the Cooperative, after payment of all just debts of the Cooperative and the costs of such dissolution or liquidation, shall be distributed in the manner set forth in the Restated Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VI**

The Restated Bylaws of the Cooperative may be amended by the members at a special or annual meeting by a majority of the members voting unless otherwise provided by law.

**ARTICLE VII**

These Restated Articles of Incorporation of April 24, 2003, shall supersede the heretofore existing Restated Articles of Incorporation.

WE, the undersigned, Chair and Secretary of the Cooperative, declare under penalties of perjury that we have examined the forgoing Restated Articles of Incorporation and to the best of our knowledge and belief it is true, correct and complete.

**STAYTON COOPERATIVE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY**

**RESTATED  
BYLAWS  
Of  
April 27, 2023**

**ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITIONS**

- 1.1 Cooperative** shall mean Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company, an Oregon cooperative corporation.
- 1.2 Board** shall mean the Board of Directors of the Cooperative corporation.
- 1.3 Rules** shall mean regulations, resolutions, rules, policy statements or other procedures of general application the Board adopts.
- 1.4 Person**, unless the context requires otherwise, includes individuals, corporations, cooperative corporations, associations, firms, partnership, limited liability companies, trusts, estates, and other legal entities.
- 1.5 Network**, unless the context requires otherwise, means the telecommunications network or facilities of this Cooperative.

**ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 Requirements** Any person may become a member of the Cooperative by:
- a. Completing the required membership application in the form the Board prescribes;
  - b. Purchasing Services from the Cooperative on the rates, terms and conditions the Board establishes;
  - c. Complying with and being bound by the Cooperative Restated Articles and the Restated Bylaws and rules the Board establishes;
  - d. Paying a non-refundable membership fee the Board may establish.

“Services” shall mean retail local exchange telephone service or such other communication services from the Cooperative that provide a continuing periodic revenue stream for the Cooperative. The Board will determine under rules of general application the types and amounts of revenue streams or the types and amounts of patronage that give rise to the privileges and obligations of membership.

Exchange carriers, interexchange carriers and other service providers who participate with the Cooperative in the provision of telecommunications services to members shall not be eligible for membership by virtue of division of revenue contracts, settlement or access arrangements and other charges these carriers pay in the provision of services to their end users. Purchasers of the Cooperative’s services at wholesale or otherwise for resale shall not be eligible for membership or patronage credits with respect to such services,

**2.2 Evidence of Membership** Membership in the Cooperative shall be evidenced by entry on the cooperative’s books and records of the member’s name, address and telephone number and issuance of member number.

**2.3 Termination of Membership**

- a. The Board may expel a member who fails to comply with applicable state and federal laws, tariffs or the Cooperative Restated Articles, Restated Bylaws or rules.

b. Members who cease to purchase Services from the Cooperative automatically terminate their membership.

**2.4 Applications/Transfers** The Board may designate a person to accept or reject membership applications and/or transfers.

**2.5 Extension of Services** The cooperation of members is essential to the successful and economical operation of the Cooperative.

Members shall consent to the cooperative's reasonable use of their real property, without cost to the cooperative, to construct, operate, maintain, replace or expand telephone and/or communication lines, overhead or underground, for the furnishing of telephone or communication service to said member. This includes all conduit, cables, wires, surface terminals markers and other appurtenances under, through, across, and upon any real property or interest therein owned, leased or controlled by said member. The member shall, when requested, execute said easement on a form to be furnished by the Cooperative.

### **ARTICLE 3 - MEMBER MEETINGS**

**3.1 Annual Meeting** The annual meeting of the members shall be held at a date and place within the Cooperative exchange area as determined by the Board which date shall be within 60 days of April 1 and which date and place shall be designated in the notice of the meeting. The meeting may be held virtually. The incidental or unintended failure of any member to receive a mail ballot or notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members by such ballot or at such meeting.

**3.2 Special Meetings** Special membership meetings may be called by the Chair or Board. Also, the Secretary shall call such a meeting upon the filing of a petition stating the business to be brought before the meeting signed by not less than 10 percent of the members. Notice of the special meeting shall state the purposes for which the meeting is called and be given pursuant to law.

**3.3 Virtual and Telephone Conference Meetings** Any member meeting may be held virtually, or by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting have the capability to hear each other. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**3.4 Notice** Not less than seven days nor more than 30 days prior to a special or regular annual members' meeting, a notice containing a statement of the place, date and hour of the meeting shall be mailed to each member. This notice shall contain the names and positions of persons running for director and a statement of issues upon which the Board requests a membership vote. The Board may direct that additional notice be given.

**3.5 Quorum** Those members present at an annual or special meeting shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is not lost if members leave after a quorum is established.

#### **3.6 Member/Mail Voting**

a. Each member is entitled to one vote on each issue. A member may vote on any nominated director. Directors shall be elected by position by majority vote except when three or more candidates are running for the same office, the director shall be elected by plurality vote. When two or more candidates for the same office, after a full recount of votes, have an equal and the highest number of votes the Chair shall have the candidates meet to decide by lot who is elected.

b. Members shall not vote by proxy; but a member that is other than a natural person may designate a representative to cast its vote. In the absence of written notice that some person has been designated to represent a member which is other than a natural person, such member may be represented by any of its principal officers.

c. The Board may cause to be submitted to members by written ballot any question to be voted on, including the election of directors. The ballot may be mailed or, if the member consents, by electronic

means, communicated by electronic transmission. Voting by ballot shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

d. The Board is authorized to establish an elections committee and determine the authority to be vested in said committee.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**4.1 General Powers** A Board of five to seven directors shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except powers which are reserved to the members by law, the Restated Articles of Incorporation or these Restated Bylaws, with the specific number to be determined by the Board of Directors.

**4.2 Nominations.** All directors will be nominated from and elected by the membership at large.

a. Nominations by Petition: Any 15 or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make nominations for directors by petition, provided such petition is filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than 45 days prior to the meeting at which directors are to be elected.

b. Nominating Committee: A nominating committee comprised of three members shall submit one or more nominations in a report filed at the Cooperative not less than 45 days before the meeting at which the Directors' election is to be held. The Board shall approve all committee members.

c. No Floor Nominations: No nominations shall be permitted from the floor in an annual or special meeting.

d. No Write-in: Election by write-in shall not be permitted.

**4.3 Tenure** Directors shall be elected for three (3) year terms. Terms shall be staggered so that no more than one-third of the directors will have terms that expire in any one year. Directors shall serve until successors are elected and assume office or until death, resignation, removal or vacancy otherwise occurs.

**4.4 Qualifications** Any person may become or remain a director of the Cooperative except a person who:

a. Fails to maintain continuous membership during tenure;

b. Is an employee of the Cooperative or its affiliated companies or is employed by or has a substantial financial interest in a competing enterprise.

c. Fails to attend two consecutive director's meetings, whether regular or special, without an acceptable excuse. The remaining members of the Board shall be the exclusive judges as to whether or not such excuse shall be accepted.

d. Is closely related to an incumbent director or an employee of the Cooperative or its affiliated companies.

(1) As used here, "closely related" means a person who is either a spouse, child, grandparent, parent, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent or stepchild of the incumbent director or employee;

(2) Also, as used herein, "employee of the Cooperative or its affiliated companies" includes both current employees and former and retired employees who were employed by the Cooperative within the last three years; and

(3) Further, as used herein, "affiliated company" includes any legal entity in which the Cooperative either directly or indirectly owns more than 10 percent of the ownership interest.

e. A violation of this section shall not invalidate any action taken by the Board.

**4.5 Vacancies** A vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, though less than a quorum, to serve until the next annual meeting at which time the director to be elected shall serve the unexpired portion of the term.

**4.6 Compensation** Directors' compensation shall be established according to our Board policy.

**4.7 Removal**

a. Members may remove a director pursuant to law, ORS 62.280(4);

b. The Board may refer to the members for removal at a special or regular meeting a director who fails to continuously meet the qualifications stated in this section, provided that, prior to designating the directorship vacant, the Board gives 10 days' written notice stating the reasons and the director has an opportunity to be heard. The Board may also refer any director to a special or regular meeting of the members for removal for violation of the Restated Articles of Incorporation, Restated Bylaws, or Board policies.

**4.8 Insurance** The Cooperative is authorized to purchase errors and omissions insurance policies for directors, officers, and managers in such form as the directors deem appropriate.

**4.9 Education** It is the policy of the Cooperative to keep its directors, officers, counsel, agents, accountants, managers and employees well informed regarding developments in the communications industry. The Board shall establish a written policy to promote this objective and for payment of expenses.

**4.10 Regular Meetings** A regular annual board meeting shall be held without notice immediately after and at the same place as the annual members' meeting. A regular board meeting shall also be held once each month with notice, at such time, place and date as the Board designates.

**4.11 Special Meetings** The Chair, President or any three directors may call for special board meetings pursuant to law.

**4.12 Virtual and Telephone Conference Meetings** Any Board meeting may be held virtually, or by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting have the capability to hear each other. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**4.13 Conflicts of Interest** The Board shall adopt a policy to implement the provisions of ORS 62.284 regarding conflicts of interest.

**4.14 Indemnification** The Cooperative shall indemnify directors, officers, employees, and agents to the fullest extent permitted by ORS 62.462 et seq. The Board shall adopt a policy to implement this provision. Any indemnification shall be reported in writing to the members of the Cooperative at the next annual membership meeting. The indemnification provided herein shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of members or disinterested board members, or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a board member, officer, employee or agent, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such a person.

**ARTICLE 5  
OFFICERS, AGENTS & EMPLOYEES**

**5.1 Officers** The principal officers of the Cooperative shall be a Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer; the Chair and Vice-chair must be directors. The Board may elect or appoint nonmembers or members as other officers, including a President and a Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**5.2 Officer Appointment** The Board shall elect the principal officers annually at the regular annual Board Meeting.

### **5.3 Duties of Officers**

a. The Chair, unless otherwise determined by the Board before or during the meeting, shall preside at Member Meetings and Board Meetings. The Chair shall perform such other duties as the Board may determine.

b. The Vice-chair shall preside at Member Meetings and Board Meetings in the event of the Chair's inability, refusal or absence, unless the Board determines otherwise before or during such meetings.

c. The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- (1) Recording the minutes of Member Meetings and Board Meetings.
- (2) Giving all notices according to these Restated Bylaws or law.
- (3) Keeping custody of corporate records and the corporate seal.
- (4) Keeping a register of member names and addresses.
- (5) Performing such other duties the Board designates.

d. The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

- (1) Performing such financial and other duties the Board designates.

e. The President:

- (1) Shall be the chief administrative and executive officer of the Cooperative.
- (2) May also be given the title of Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- (3) Shall perform such other duties as the Board may determine.

f. The Vice-President:

- (1) Shall, in the absence or inability of the President, perform the duties of the President.
- (2) Shall perform such other duties as the Board may determine.

**5.4 Removal of Officers** The Board may remove officers pursuant to law.

**5.5 Others** The Board may also designate members or non-members as agents, counsel, auditors and general manager.

**5.6 Employees** The Board may designate itself, the President, a manager or other employee, an agent or a committee to hire, or to dismiss, and to fix compensation for, employees which are necessary and appropriate to the Cooperative's operations.

**5.7 Bonds** The Board may require any person associated with the Cooperative to carry a personal bond. The Board may pay the premiums from Cooperative funds.

## **ARTICLE 6 - PATRONAGE**

**6.1 Allocation** The net income or loss of the Cooperative shall be allocated to its members in accordance with the ratio that each member's patronage during the period involved bears to total patronage by all members during that period. Losses shall be charged to the member's prior allocations and if not sufficient, then to future allocations.

**6.2 Exclusion**

The following services may be excluded from patronage allocations:

- a. Services sold by the Cooperative at wholesale rates or which are otherwise used for resale or the distribution of information, video or other communication services; and
- b. Services which are not billed and collected by the Cooperative, even when such services are partially rendered over the facilities of the Cooperative.

### **6.3 Retirement**

- a. If the Board determines that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to member accounts may be retired in full or in part.
- b. Upon dissolution, bankruptcy or the death of any member, the Board may at its discretion retire the patronage account of that member.
- c. The Board may determine the minimum patronage dividends to be retired and also the minimum balances to be maintained by equity account holders.

**6.4 Terms and Conditions** The Board shall establish terms and conditions relating to patronage, including, but not limited to, exclusions, unclaimed distributions, the method and basis for allocations and the timing, priority and order of retirement.

**6.5 Divisions** The Board may separate the business operations of the Cooperative into divisions.

## **ARTICLE 7 - SEAL**

**7.1** The corporate seal of the Cooperative shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company and the words "Corporate Seal Oregon."

## **ARTICLE 8 - FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

**8.1 Contracts** Except as otherwise provided in these Restated Bylaws, the Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**8.2 Checks, Drafts, Etc.** All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, and all notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative, shall be signed by such officer, agent or agents, employee or employees of the Cooperative and in such a manner as shall, from time to time, be determined by resolution of the Board.

**8.3 Deposits** All funds of the Cooperative shall be deposited, from time to time, to the credit of the Cooperative in such banks or institutions as the Board may select.

### **8.4 Disposition of Property and Assets**

a. A sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all, or substantially all, the property and assets, with or without the good will, of the Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company, if not made in the usual and regular course of its business, may be made upon such terms and for such consideration, which may consist in whole or in part of money or property, real or personal, including shares of any other cooperative, corporation or association, as may be authorized in the following manner:

(1) The Board shall adopt a resolution recommending the sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition and directing the submission thereof to vote at a meeting of members, which may be either an annual or a special meeting.

(2) Written or printed notice shall be given to each member within the time and in the manner provided in ORS 62.255 for the giving of notice of meetings of members, and shall state that the purpose, or one

of the purposes, of the meeting is to consider the proposed sale, lease, exchange or other disposition.

(3) At the meeting, the members, without right of proxy, by affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the Cooperative, may approve the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition, and may fix, or may authorize the Board to fix, any or all of the terms and conditions thereof and the consideration to be received by the Cooperative therefore.

b. After authorization by vote of members, the Board nevertheless, in its discretion, may abandon the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of assets subject to the rights of third parties under any contracts relating thereto, without further action or approval by members.

**8.5 Dissolution or Liquidation** Upon dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, the following priorities shall exist in the distribution of assets:

a. All debts and liabilities of the Cooperative shall be paid;

b. Holders of credits to members' equity accounts shall be paid the face amount of such credits without priority for date of issue of such credits. If the amount of funds to be distributed is insufficient to retire all such credits at the face value thereof, retirement shall be discounted on a prorated basis.

c. The remaining property and assets of the Cooperative shall be distributed among the current members in proportion to which the aggregate patronage of each member bears to the total patronage of all such current members on the date of dissolution unless otherwise provided by law.

d. Any indebtedness due to the Cooperative from the holders of patronage allocations in the Cooperative may be offset by using said holders' equities before retirement of such equities.

## **ARTICLE 9 - REPEALER**

**9.1** All bylaws in effect prior to these Restated Bylaws are repealed.

## **ARTICLE 10 - COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

**10.1 Agreement** The members of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Restated Bylaws, as the members, from time to time establish, shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each member, and both the Cooperative and the members are bound by such contract, as fully as though each member had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions.

**10.2 Indebtedness of Members** Any indebtedness owed by a member to the Cooperative and not paid within 60 days or prior to the retirement of or transfer of such credit or any part thereof may be offset by the Cooperative against a member's equity account. The Cooperative shall have a continuing perfected security interest in the patronage credits and accounts representing patronage credits to secure payment of any indebtedness, whenever incurred, owed to the Cooperative by the holder of the account. The security interest of the Cooperative shall take priority over all other perfected security interests.

## **ARTICLE 11 - ACCOUNTING**

**11.1 Accounting System and Reports** The Board shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system according to applicable laws, rules and regulations, which shall conform to such accounting systems as designated by the applicable regulatory bodies. The Board shall also, after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made a full and complete audit of the financial condition of the Cooperative as of the end of such fiscal year. Financial statements shall be made available to the members prior to the annual meeting.



**ARTICLE 12 -  
NON-LIABILITY: DEBTS OF THE COMPANY**

**12.1** The private property of the members shall be exempt from execution or other liability of the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Cooperative .

**ARTICLE 13 - AMENDMENTS**

**13.1** Unless otherwise provided by law, the Restated Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by the members at a special or annual meeting by a majority of the member votes cast thereon.