

HICKORY TECH CORP
Form 10-Q
November 05, 2013
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2013

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to .

Commission file number 0-13721

HICKORY TECH CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota 41-1524393
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

221 East Hickory Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56002-3248
(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(800) 326-5789
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definition of "large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The total number of shares of the Registrant's common stock outstanding as of November 1, 2013: 13,581,683.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I Financial Information

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <u>Item 1. Financial Statements</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Income (Unaudited) for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 and 2012</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited) for the Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 and 2012</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets (Unaudited) as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 and 2012</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>17</u> |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u> | <u>31</u> |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>31</u> |

PART II Other Information

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>32</u> |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u> | <u>32</u> |
| <u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>33</u> |
| <u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> | <u>33</u> |
| <u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | <u>33</u> |
| <u>Item 5. Other Information</u> | <u>33</u> |
| <u>Item 6. Exhibit Listing</u> | <u>33</u> |
| <u>Signatures</u> | <u>34</u> |
| <u>Exhibits</u> | <u>35</u> |

Table of Contents

Part I Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements

HICKORY TECH CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Unaudited)

| (Dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts) | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Operating revenue: | | | | |
| Equipment | \$ 12,849 | \$ 12,915 | \$ 41,123 | \$ 38,954 |
| Services | 34,239 | 32,898 | 101,875 | 97,660 |
| Total operating revenue | 47,088 | 45,813 | 142,998 | 136,614 |
| Costs and expenses: | | | | |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization | 10,929 | 10,906 | 35,011 | 33,664 |
| Cost of services, excluding depreciation and amortization | 17,406 | 16,358 | 50,976 | 47,589 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 6,953 | 7,123 | 21,449 | 21,270 |
| Asset impairment | - | - | 638 | - |
| Depreciation and amortization | 7,514 | 6,869 | 21,775 | 19,795 |
| Total costs and expenses | 42,802 | 41,256 | 129,849 | 122,318 |
| Operating income | 4,286 | 4,557 | 13,149 | 14,296 |
| Other income and expense: | | | | |
| Interest and other income | 1 | 3 | 16 | 37 |
| Interest expense | (1,155) | (1,625) | (3,425) | (4,635) |
| Total other expense | (1,154) | (1,622) | (3,409) | (4,598) |
| Income before income taxes | 3,132 | 2,935 | 9,740 | 9,698 |
| Income tax provision | 1,270 | 1,194 | 3,931 | 3,925 |
| Net income | \$ 1,862 | \$ 1,741 | \$ 5,809 | \$ 5,773 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$0.14 | \$0.13 | \$0.43 | \$0.43 |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding | 13,543,062 | 13,427,883 | 13,543,479 | 13,394,224 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$0.14 | \$0.13 | \$0.43 | \$0.43 |
| Weighted average common and equivalent shares outstanding | 13,592,577 | 13,485,143 | 13,594,198 | 13,452,642 |
| Dividends per share | \$0.145 | \$0.14 | \$0.435 | \$0.42 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

HICKORY TECH CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(Unaudited)

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Net income | \$1,862 | \$1,741 | \$5,809 | \$5,773 |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | |
| Designated interest rate swaps: | | | | |
| Changes in fair value | (99) | - | (39) | - |
| Income tax benefit | 40 | - | 16 | - |
| Unrealized holding loss on designated interest rate swaps | (59) | - | (23) | - |
| Post-retirement benefit plan: | | | | |
| Amounts included in net periodic benefit cost: | | | | |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss | 119 | 203 | 359 | 473 |
| Amortization of prior service credit | (236) | (19) | (708) | (57) |
| Amortization of transition obligation | - | 15 | - | 45 |
| Adjustment to post-retirement benefit plan | - | - | - | (1,034) |
| Income tax benefit (expense) | 47 | (80) | 139 | 228 |
| Change in post-retirement benefit plan | (70) | 119 | (210) | (345) |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income | (129) | 119 | (233) | (345) |
| Comprehensive income | \$1,733 | \$1,860 | \$5,576 | \$5,428 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

4

Table of Contents

HICKORY TECH CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Unaudited)

| | September 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| (Dollars in thousands except share and per share amounts) | | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$6,516 | \$8,305 |
| Receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$312 and \$278 | 22,598 | 22,530 |
| Inventories | 5,408 | 8,379 |
| Income taxes receivable | - | 596 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 1,623 | 1,887 |
| Prepaid expenses | 2,610 | 2,092 |
| Other | 1,106 | 1,399 |
| Total current assets | 39,861 | 45,188 |
| Investments | 3,414 | 3,213 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 455,290 | 437,623 |
| Accumulated depreciation and amortization | (273,608) | (254,664) |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 181,682 | 182,959 |
| Other assets: | | |
| Goodwill | 29,028 | 29,028 |
| Intangible assets, net | 4,108 | 4,811 |
| Deferred costs and other | 2,865 | 3,105 |
| Total other assets | 36,001 | 36,944 |
| Total assets | \$260,958 | \$268,304 |
| LIABILITIES & SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$3,191 | \$5,818 |
| Extended term payable | 7,520 | 8,115 |
| Deferred revenue | 5,415 | 7,362 |
| Accrued expenses and other | 8,734 | 10,881 |
| Financial derivative instruments | 318 | - |
| Current maturities of long-term obligations | 1,584 | 1,648 |
| Total current liabilities | 26,762 | 33,824 |
| Long-term liabilities: | | |
| Debt obligations, net of current maturities | 134,018 | 135,133 |
| Accrued income taxes | 222 | 236 |
| Deferred revenue | 2,867 | 1,085 |
| Financial derivative instruments | 1,356 | 2,432 |
| Accrued employee benefits and deferred compensation | 12,857 | 12,481 |
| Deferred income taxes | 34,111 | 34,265 |

Edgar Filing: HICKORY TECH CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Total long-term liabilities | 185,431 | 185,632 |
| Total liabilities | 212,193 | 219,456 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common stock, no par value, \$0.10 stated value | | |
| Shares authorized: 100,000,000 | | |
| Shares issued and outstanding: 13,553,160 in 2013 and 13,519,131 in 2012 | 1,355 | 1,352 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 16,188 | 15,950 |
| Retained earnings | 30,896 | 30,987 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 326 | 559 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 48,765 | 48,848 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$260,958 | \$268,304 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

5

Table of Contents

HICKORY TECH CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

| | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2013 | 2012 |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Net income | \$5,809 | \$5,773 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 21,775 | 19,795 |
| Asset impairment | 638 | - |
| Accrued patronage refunds | (529) | (527) |
| Stock based compensation expense | 616 | 555 |
| Loss on financial derivative instruments | 83 | 295 |
| Excess tax benefit | (94) | - |
| Other | 741 | 1,410 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effect from acquired net assets | | |
| Receivables | (218) | (2,130) |
| Prepaid expenses | (518) | (810) |
| Inventories | 3,186 | 2,116 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | (5,711) | (1,031) |
| Deferred revenue, billings and deposits | (165) | (1,511) |
| Income taxes | 594 | (643) |
| Other | 861 | 330 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 27,068 | 23,622 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | (21,582) | (21,761) |
| Broadband stimulus grant received | 831 | 2,941 |
| Redemption of investments | - | 1,415 |
| Acquisition of IdeaOne Telecom | - | (26,337) |
| Proceeds from sale of assets | 134 | 1 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (20,617) | (43,741) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Borrowings on extended term payable arrangement | 48,084 | 41,370 |
| Payments on extended term payable arrangement | (48,679) | (34,281) |
| Borrowings on credit facility | - | 22,000 |
| Payments on credit facility and capital lease obligations | (1,235) | (6,753) |
| Proceeds from issuance of common stock | 671 | 435 |
| Stock repurchase | (1,275) | - |
| Dividends paid | (5,900) | (5,658) |
| Excess tax benefit | 94 | - |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities | (8,240) | 17,113 |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (1,789) | (3,006) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period | 8,305 | 13,057 |

Edgar Filing: HICKORY TECH CORP - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period | \$6,516 | \$10,051 |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: | | |
| Cash paid for interest | \$4,435 | \$4,453 |
| Net cash paid for income taxes | \$2,986 | \$4,568 |
| Non-cash investing and financing activities: | | |
| Property, plant and equipment acquired with capital leases | \$56 | \$90 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

6

Table of Contents

HICKORY TECH CORPORATION

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)

September 30, 2013

Note 1. Basis of Presentation and Consolidation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of HickoryTech Corporation and its subsidiaries have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") for interim financial information and with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Certain information and disclosures normally included in annual financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP have been omitted or condensed pursuant to such rules and regulations. In the opinion of management, the unaudited consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments (consisting only of normal and recurring accruals) considered necessary for the fair presentation of the financial statements and present fairly the results of operations, financial position and cash flows for the interim periods presented as required by Regulation S-X, Rule 10-01. These unaudited interim consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, together with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes thereto contained in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses and related disclosures at the date of the financial statements and during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The results of operations for the interim periods presented are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year as a whole or any other interim period.

Our consolidated financial statements report the financial condition and results of operations for HickoryTech Corporation and its subsidiaries in three business segments: Fiber and Data, Equipment and Telecom. Intercompany transactions have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements.

Recent Accounting Developments

In the first quarter of 2013, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2013-02 to improve the disclosure of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive income. The Update requires an entity to provide information about the amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by component. Also, an entity is required to present significant amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income by the respective line items of net income (only if the amount reclassified is required under GAAP to be reclassified to net income in its entirety in the same reporting period) either on the face of the statement where net income is presented or in the notes thereto. Our adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on our disclosures or consolidated financial statements.

In the second quarter of 2013, the FASB issued ASU 2013-11 to bring conformity in the presentation of unrecognized tax benefits when a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward exists. ASU 2013-11 becomes effective for us on January 1, 2014. We do not believe the adoption of this guidance will have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements or notes to the consolidated financial statements.

We reviewed other recently issued accounting pronouncements and determined they are either not applicable to our business or that no material effect is expected on our financial position, results of operations, cash flows or disclosures.

Note 2. Earnings and Dividends per Share

Basic earnings per share ("EPS") is calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the applicable period. Shares used in the diluted earnings per share calculation are based on the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period increased by potentially dilutive common equivalent shares. Potentially dilutive common shares include stock options, stock subscribed under the HickoryTech Corporation Amended and Restated Employee Stock Purchase Plan ("ESPP"), retention stock awards and stock awarded under the Long-Term Executive Incentive Program ("LTEIP"). Dilution is determined using the treasury stock method. The Company does not use the two-class method to report its earnings per share. The two-class method includes an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings per share for common stock and unvested restricted stock issued under the LTEIP, which contain the right to receive dividends. However, the application of this method would result in an immaterial change in earnings per share and is therefore not presented.

7

Table of Contents

| (Dollars in thousands, except share and earnings per share amounts) | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Net income | \$1,862 | \$1,741 | \$5,809 | \$5,773 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 13,543,062 | 13,427,883 | 13,543,479 | 13,394,224 |
| Stock options (dilutive only) | 6,770 | 15,316 | 5,725 | 14,628 |
| Stock subscribed (ESPP) | - | 550 | - | 282 |
| Retention awards | 20,115 | 20,006 | 21,366 | 22,417 |
| Stock subscribed (LTEIP) | 22,630 | 21,388 | 23,628 | 21,091 |
| Total dilutive shares outstanding | 13,592,577 | 13,485,143 | 13,594,198 | 13,452,642 |
| Earnings per share: | | | | |
| Basic and diluted | \$0.14 | \$0.13 | \$0.43 | \$0.43 |
| Dividends per share | \$0.145 | \$0.14 | \$0.435 | \$0.42 |

Options to purchase 72,950 and 78,900 shares for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, and 82,150 and 78,900 shares for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively, were not included in the computation of diluted EPS, because their effect on earnings per share would have been anti-dilutive.

Cash dividends are based on the number of common shares outstanding at their respective record dates. The number of shares outstanding as of the record date for the first three quarters of 2013 and 2012, respectively, are as follows:

| Shares outstanding on record date | 2013 | 2012 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| First quarter (February 15) | 13,586,903 | 13,409,941 |
| Second quarter (May 15) | 13,559,043 | 13,479,677 |
| Third quarter (August 15) | 13,544,964 | 13,494,599 |

Dividends per share are based on the quarterly dividend per share as declared by the HickoryTech Board of Directors. HickoryTech paid dividends of \$0.145 and \$0.14 per share in the third quarter of 2013 and 2012, respectively. During the first nine months of 2013 and 2012, shareholders have elected to reinvest \$229,000 and \$223,000, respectively, of dividends into HickoryTech common stock pursuant to the HickoryTech Corporation Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

In the nine months ended September 30, 2013, we acquired and retired 124,285 shares of HickoryTech common stock. There were no share repurchases or retirements during the three months ended September 30, 2013.

Note 3. Acquisition

On March 1, 2012, we acquired IdeaOne Telecom Group, LLC for cash consideration of \$26,337,000 expanding our business and broadband services in the Fargo, North Dakota market. The acquisition was funded with existing liquidity through cash reserves of \$4,337,000 and \$22,000,000 of term loan debt which is integrated with our senior credit facility. In addition, we assumed and paid liabilities of the acquired company using additional cash reserves of \$1,843,000 on the closing date of the acquisition.

Note 4. Long-Lived Assets

We review long-lived assets, including intangible assets subject to amortization, for impairment if certain events or changes in circumstances indicate impairment may be present. Impairment exists if the carrying value of a long-lived asset exceeds the sum of the undiscounted future cash flows expected to result from the use and eventual disposal of the asset at the date it is tested. If the carrying value is no longer recoverable based upon the undiscounted future cash flows of the asset, an impairment equal to the difference between the carrying amount and the fair value of the asset is recognized.

8

Table of Contents

In the first quarter of 2013, an impairment test was performed in response to indicators that the carrying amount of certain customer relationship intangible assets and property, plant and equipment related to providing wireless Internet to customers in the Fargo, North Dakota market may not be recoverable due to our decision to phase out this service. During the impairment review, we determined the carrying value of these particular intangibles, property and equipment were impaired. Fair value was calculated using the income approach of valuation. The income approach utilizes the discounted cash flow method. It requires the use of estimates and judgments about the future income expected to be derived from the use or ownership of an asset.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2013, an impairment charge of \$638,000 was recognized within our Fiber and Data Segment. There were no such charges in the third quarter of 2013 or in the 2012 fiscal year.

Note 5. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

We have goodwill in each of our reportable segments: Fiber and Data Segment goodwill resulted from our acquisitions of IdeaOne Telecom in 2012, CP Telecom in 2009 and Enventis Telecom in 2005. Equipment Segment goodwill resulted from our acquisition of Enventis Telecom in 2005 and Telecom Segment goodwill resulted from our acquisition of Heartland Telecommunications in 1997. The tax deductible portion of goodwill is \$26,964,000.

| | September 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | | |
| Fiber and Data | \$ 5,384 | \$ 5,384 |
| Equipment | \$ 596 | \$ 596 |
| Telecom | \$ 23,048 | \$ 23,048 |

The components of intangible assets are as follows:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Useful Lives | September 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization |
| Definite-lived intangible assets | | | | | |
| Customer relationships | 1 - 8 years | \$8,459 | \$ 5,888 | \$8,499 | \$ 5,368 |
| Other intangibles | 1 - 5 years | 2,930 | 1,393 | 2,930 | 1,250 |
| Total | | \$11,389 | \$ 7,281 | \$11,429 | \$ 6,618 |

In the first quarter of 2013, we reduced the carrying value of the customer relationships by \$40,000. This impairment loss was directly related to our decision to no longer provide wireless Internet service in the Fargo, North Dakota market. See Note 4 "Long-Lived Assets."

Amortization expense related to the definite-lived intangible assets was \$220,000 and \$223,000 for the three months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively and \$663,000 and \$580,000 for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively.

The estimated future amortization expense of identifiable intangible assets is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | |
| For fiscal years ending | |
| December 31: | |
| Remainder of fiscal 2013 | \$ 220 |

| | |
|------------|-----|
| 2014 | 749 |
| 2015 | 616 |
| 2016 | 565 |
| 2017 | 554 |
| 2018 | 554 |
| Thereafter | 850 |
| 9 | |

Table of Contents

Note 6. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value of financial and non-financial assets and liabilities is the price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy for assessing the inputs used in fair value measurements are as follows:

- Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities
- Level 2 – observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data available and require the entity to develop its own assumptions

The highest priority is given to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority is given to unobservable inputs (Level 3).

The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, net accounts receivables, payables, and other short-term monetary assets and liabilities was estimated by management to approximate fair value due to the relatively short period of time to maturity for these instruments.

Our long-term debt agreement allows us to select short-term LIBOR pricing options, which we have elected. Therefore, the carrying amounts of our long-term debt approximate its fair value. The fair value estimate of our interest rate swaps represent the net present value of future cash flows based on projections of the three-month LIBOR rate over the life of each swap. It also incorporates credit valuation adjustments to appropriately reflect both our own non-performance risk and the non-performance risk of the respective counterparties. See Note 8 "Financial Derivative Instruments" for further discussion regarding our interest rate swaps.

The carrying amount and the fair value of our long-term debt, after deducting current maturities, interest rate swaps and our investments are as follows at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Input Level | September 30, 2013 | | December 31, 2012 | |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| | | Carrying Amount | Fair Value | Carrying Amount | Fair Value |
| Long-term debt | 2 | \$134,018 | \$134,018 | \$135,133 | \$135,133 |
| Interest rate swaps | 2 | \$1,674 | \$1,674 | \$2,432 | \$2,432 |
| Investments | 3 | \$3,414 | n/a | \$3,213 | n/a |

Our investments at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 consist primarily of minority positions in various cooperatives and our investment in CoBank, ACB ("CoBank") and are accounted for under the cost method. CoBank is a cooperative bank owned by its customers, which is a lender in our credit facility. Annually, CoBank distributes patronage based on our outstanding debt balance with them; therefore, our investment represents the accumulation of the equity patronage paid to us by CoBank. All of these investment holdings result from patronage and our business relationship with various banks and vendors. It is impractical to determine fair value of these investments because there is no established market for these equity interests. We did not evaluate any of the investments for impairment during the three or nine months ended September 30, 2013 as there were no events or changes in circumstances indicating impairment may be present.

Note 7. Debt and Other Obligations

Our long-term obligations as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 were as follows:

Edgar Filing: HICKORY TECH CORP - Form 10-Q

| | September | December |
|---|------------|------------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 30, 2013 | 31, 2012 |
| Debt (current and long-term) | \$ 135,270 | \$ 136,335 |
| Capital leases | 332 | 446 |
| Total debt | 135,602 | 136,781 |
| Current portion of: | | |
| Debt | 1,353 | 1,420 |
| Capital leases | 231 | 228 |
| Current maturities of long-term obligations | 1,584 | 1,648 |
| Long-term debt obligations, net of current maturities | \$ 134,018 | \$ 135,133 |

10

Table of Contents

On October 30, 2013 we amended our credit facility with a syndicate of banks, led by CoBank, ACB. Under the terms of the amended credit facility, we have the option to pay interest at LIBOR or at a Base Rate, as defined in the agreements, plus an applicable margin. The amendment combined the various term loan components of our previous credit facility into one term loan and extended the maturity date of the credit facility to December 31, 2019. We estimate that \$1,287,000 of additional financing charges will be deferred, and \$143,000 of unamortized debt issuance costs and new issuance costs are expected to be recognized in interest expense during the fourth quarter of 2013. The amendment did not change the amount of the outstanding debt. We expect our interest rate derivative contracts to maintain their designation as effective cash flow hedges. See Note 8 "Financial Derivative Instruments."

Key components of our credit facility remain. Similarly, our amended credit facility will be comprised of a \$30,000,000 revolving credit component and a \$135,270,000 Term Loan B component. The amendment lowered our margin by approximately 25 basis points, and based on our current leverage ratio our interest rate is 275 basis points over LIBOR.

We are required to make quarterly principal payments of approximately \$338,000 on the amended term loan. The revolving credit component does not require quarterly principal payments.

The term loan component has a provision whereby we periodically receive patronage capital refunds from certain lenders. Patronage refunds are recorded as an offset to interest expense and amounted to \$529,000 in the first nine months of 2013 compared to \$527,000 in the first nine months of 2012.

At September 30, 2013, we are in full compliance with specified financial ratios and tests required by our credit facility. The credit facility includes allowances for continued payment of dividends and specific limits on common stock repurchases.

Our obligations under the amended credit facility are secured by a first-priority lien on the property and assets, tangible and intangible, of HickoryTech and its subsidiaries, which includes total assets with the exception of the Equipment Segment accounts receivable and inventory and assets purchased or constructed through Federal funding, reflecting the National Telecommunications Information Administration ("NTIA") Federal interest in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP") grant-funded network. We have also given a first-priority pledge of the capital stock of our subsidiaries to secure the credit facility. The credit facility contains certain restrictions that, among other things, limit or restrict our ability to create liens or encumbrances; incur additional debt; issue stock; make asset sales, transfers, or dispositions; and engage in certain mergers and acquisitions; pay dividends or purchase/redeem Company stock over specified maximum values. None of these restrictions inhibit our business plan.

Note 8. Financial Derivative Instruments

We utilize interest-rate swap agreements to manage our exposure to interest rate fluctuations on a portion of our variable-interest rate debt. We have effectively changed our exposure to varying cash flows on the variable-rate portion of our debt into fixed-rate cash flows, therefore reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future cash interest payments. We do not enter into derivative instruments for any purpose other than to manage interest rate exposure. We do not engage in interest rate speculation using derivative instruments.

We account for derivatives in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 815, "Derivatives and Hedging." ASC 815 requires all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet as either an asset or a liability measured at its fair value, and changes in the derivatives' fair value be recognized in earnings unless specific hedge accounting criteria are met. If a derivative is designated as a hedge, the effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives is recorded as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income in shareholders' equity, net of tax, which is subsequently, reclassified into earnings when the underlying hedged transaction is recognized in earnings. Amounts related to our

derivatives will be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income to interest expense as interest payments are accrued or made on our variable rate debt. The estimated amount expected to be reclassified as an increase to interest expense within the next twelve months is \$74,000 at September 30, 2013. The ineffective portion of the fair value of derivatives is recognized directly in earnings. Hedge ineffectiveness is attributable to the swaps having a non-zero fair value at the time they were designated. If we were to terminate our interest rate swap positions, any related balance in accumulated other comprehensive income would immediately be recognized in earnings or reclassified into earnings as the interest payments are made dependent on the facts and circumstances of the termination. The changes in the fair value of derivatives that are not designated as hedges are recognized immediately in earnings. As of January 1, 2013 our interest rate swaps were designated as cash flow hedging instruments. As of December 31, 2012 our interest rate swaps were not designated as hedging instruments.

11

Table of Contents

Listed below are the interest rate swap agreements outstanding as of September 30, 2013 which were designated as cash flow hedges of interest rate risk and have the effect of locking our interest rates on a portion of our existing variable interest rate debt.

| Interest Rate Swap Agreement Effective Dates | Notional Amount | Rate |
|--|-----------------|-------|
| September 2011 - September 2014 | \$24,000,000 | 1.66% |
| September 2011 - March 2015 | \$24,000,000 | 1.91% |
| September 2011 - September 2015 | \$24,000,000 | 2.14% |

The following table presents the fair value of our derivative instruments included in our Consolidated Balance Sheets as either current or long-term liabilities as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012.

| (Dollars in thousands) | | Fair value as of | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | | September 30, 2013 | December 31, 2012 |
| Interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges | | | |
| Pay-fixed swaps liabilities | Financial derivative instruments | \$1,674 | \$ - |
| Interest rate derivatives not designated as cash flow hedges | | | |
| Pay-fixed swaps liabilities | Financial derivative instruments | \$ - | \$ 2,432 |

The table below illustrates the effect of derivative instruments on consolidated operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012. Our derivative instruments were designated as cash flow hedges for the periods ended September 30, 2013. For the periods ended September 30, 2012 our derivative instruments were not designated as hedges.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Location of Loss | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges | | | | | |
| Losses recognized on effective portion of derivative instruments | Other comprehensive income | \$99 | \$ - | \$39 | \$ - |
| Losses reclassified from accumulated OCI into income | Interest expense | 28 | - | 74 | - |
| Losses recognized in income on ineffective portion and amount excluded from effectiveness testing | Interest expense | 8 | - | 9 | - |
| Interest rate derivatives not designated as cash flow hedges | | | | | |
| Losses recognized on derivative instruments | Interest expense | \$ - | \$131 | \$ - | \$295 |

Table of Contents

Note 9. Extended Term Payable

Enterprise Integration Services, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of HickoryTech, has an \$18,000,000 wholesale financing agreement with a financing company to fund equipment purchases from certain approved vendors. Advances under this financing arrangement are collateralized by the inventory and accounts receivable of our Equipment Segment and a guarantee of an amount up to \$2,500,000 by HickoryTech. The agreement requires Enterprise Integration Services, Inc. to maintain specific levels of collateral relative to the outstanding balance due, provide selected monthly financial information, and make all payments when due or on demand in the event of a collateral shortfall, among other requirements. A default on the financing agreement by Enterprise Integration Services, Inc. would require HickoryTech to perform under the guarantee. The financing agreement provides 60 day, interest-free payment terms for working capital and can be terminated at any time by either party. The balance outstanding under the financing arrangement was \$7,520,000 and \$8,115,000 at September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively. The balance fluctuates on a quarterly basis dependent upon timing of customer orders. These balances are classified as current liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets and are not considered part of our debt financing.

Note 10. Employee Post-Retirement Benefits

HickoryTech provides post-retirement health care and life insurance benefits for eligible employees. We are currently not funding these post-retirement benefits, but have accrued these liabilities. We are required to recognize the funded status of our post-retirement benefit plans on our consolidated balance sheet and recognize as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax, the gains or losses and prior service costs or credit that arise during the period but are not recognized as components of net periodic benefit cost. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2007 are not eligible for post-retirement health care and life insurance benefits.

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|---|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | | | |
| Components of net periodic benefit cost | | | | |
| Service cost | \$67 | \$150 | \$201 | \$450 |
| Interest cost | 120 | 188 | 360 | 564 |
| Expected return on plan assets | - | - | - | - |
| Amortization of transition obligation | - | 15 | - | 45 |
| Amortization of prior service credits | (236) | (19) | (708) | (57) |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss | 119 | 135 | 359 | 405 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$70 | \$469 | \$212 | \$1,407 |

Note 11. Inventories

The inventory value in the Fiber and Data Segment and the Telecom Segment are comprised of raw materials to be consumed in capital projects and finished goods to be used in the delivery of services at the customer premise. The inventory value in the Equipment Segment is primarily comprised of finished goods in our warehouse or in transit to customer locations. The inventory level in the Equipment Segment is subject to the fluctuations in the equipment sales activity and the timing of individual customer orders and installations.

Inventory balances by segment are as follows:

Edgar Filing: HICKORY TECH CORP - Form 10-Q

| | September | December |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 30, 2013 | 31, 2012 |
| Fiber and Data | \$ 807 | \$ 665 |
| Equipment | \$ 3,360 | \$ 6,201 |
| Telecom | \$ 1,241 | \$ 1,513 |

13

Table of Contents

Note 12. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The table below illustrates the effect on certain line items of net income of the amounts reclassified out of each component of accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI") for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013. See Note 8 "Financial Derivative Instruments" and Note 10 "Employee Post-Retirement Benefits" for additional details regarding the reclassifications below.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Amounts Reclassified from AOCI | | Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Three Months Ended September 30, 2013 | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 | |
| Details about AOCI Components | | | |
| Losses on cash flow hedges | | | |
| Interest rate contracts | \$28 (12) | \$ 74 (30) | Interest expense)Income tax provision |
| | \$16 | \$ 44 | Net of tax |
| Amortization of benefit pension items | | | |
| Prior service credits | \$236 | \$ 708 | Selling, general and administrative expenses |
| Actuarial loss | (119) | (359) |)Selling, general and administrative expenses |
| | 117 | 349 | Total before tax |
| | (47) | (139) |)Income tax provision |
| | \$70 | \$ 210 | Net of tax |
| Total reclassifications of period | \$86 | \$ 254 | Net of tax |

Note 13. Income Taxes

The effective income tax rate from operations for the third quarter of 2013 and 2012 was 40.5% and 40.7%, respectively and 40.4% and 40.5% for the year-to-date period ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The effective tax rate from operations differs from the federal statutory rate primarily due to state income taxes.

As of September 30, 2013, we had unrecognized tax benefits totaling \$218,000 (net of tax) excluding interest. The amount of the unrecognized tax benefits, if recognized, that would affect the effective income tax rates of future periods is \$199,000. Due to expirations of statute of limitations, it is reasonably possible that the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits will not decrease during the next 12 months.

We file consolidated income tax returns in the United States federal jurisdiction and combined or separate income tax returns in various state jurisdictions. In general, we are no longer subject to United States federal income tax examinations for the years prior to 2009 except to the extent of losses utilized in subsequent years.

Note 14. Stock Compensation

Our stock award plans provide for granting non-qualified stock options, stock awards and restricted stock awards to employees. We recognize stock compensation charges related to stock award plans based on management's best

estimates and assumptions that the performance and service requirements of the plan will be achieved. Such compensation charges are recorded based upon the grant date fair value or settlement date fair value (as applicable) of our stock and are recognized over the requisite service period specified by the specific award plans. Share-based compensation expense includes amounts recognized related to the Company Employee Stock Purchase Plan. This plan allows participating employees to acquire shares of common stock at 85% of the average closing price for the five days previous to the purchase date. Stock-based compensation expense was \$616,000 and \$555,000, respectively, in the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012. This includes compensation expense for share-based payment awards granted prior to, but not vested as of September 30, 2013. As of September 30, 2013, we had not yet recognized compensation expense related to non-vested awards totaling \$1,292,000. The weighted average period over which this compensation expense will be recognized is 2.27 years.

1993 Stock Award Plan

Long-Term Executive Incentive Program

We carry obligations of \$845,000 and \$1,028,000 as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 respectively, related to liability classified awards under the LTEIP that will be settled in company common stock in future periods.

Table of Contents

Non-vested restricted stock activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is depicted in the table below. Granted shares represent non-vested shares issued to settle an obligation under the LTEIP plan during the period.

| | Shares | Weighted Average Fair Value |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Non-vested at January 1 | 32,447 | \$ 3.43 |
| Granted/settled | 68,699 | \$ 9.83 |
| Vested | (72,621) | \$ 6.97 |
| Forfeited | - | \$ - |
| Non-vested at September 30 | 28,525 | \$ 9.83 |

Employee Stock Retention

Under this program, designated employees can earn shares of common stock if they complete a requisite service period which typically ranges from 11 to 36 months. Compensation expense related to the Employee Stock Retention program is recognized over the requisite service period.

Retention stock activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is as follows:

| | Shares | Weighted Average Fair Value |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Non-vested at January 1 | 11,150 | \$ 10.28 |
| Granted | 33,950 | \$ 8.76 |
| Vested | - | \$ - |
| Forfeited | (800) | \$ 10.57 |
| Non-vested at September 30 | 44,300 | \$ 9.07 |

Stock Option

Stock options granted may be exercised no later than ten years after the date of grant, with one-third of the options vesting each year.

A summary of stock option activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 is as follows:

| | Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Outstanding at January 1 | 143,817 | \$ 9.95 |
| Granted | - | \$ - |
| Exercised | (21,667) | \$ 8.44 |
| Forfeited | - | \$ - |
| Expired | (15,000) | \$ 8.93 |
| Outstanding at September 30 | 107,150 | \$ 10.40 |
| Exercisable at September 30 | 103,816 | \$ 10.45 |

In the nine months ended September 30, 2013, we received \$183,000 in cash related to stock options exercised during the period.

15

Table of Contents

Note 15. Quarterly Segment Financial Summary

Our operations are conducted in three segments: (i) Fiber and Data, (ii) Equipment and (iii) Telecom.

Our Fiber and Data Segment serves wholesale, enterprise and commercial business customers with advanced data, Internet, voice and voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") services. With our IP network and communication expertise, we are able to provide both custom and broad network solutions which can be extended beyond our regional network through interconnections to provide end-to-end national connectivity. The Fiber and Data Segment includes revenue from Ethernet, Private Line, Multi-Protocol Label Switching ("MPLS"), Data Center, Dedicated Internet and our hosted VoIP SingleLink services. We own, lease or utilize long-term indefeasible rights of use ("IRU") agreements for the operation of our network. Fiber and Data services are marketed throughout our core regions: northern Minnesota and the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area, southern Minnesota, Des Moines, Iowa and Fargo, North Dakota.

Our Equipment Segment provides equipment solutions and support for a broad spectrum of business customers ranging in size from medium to large enterprise. Our equipment business plans, designs and implements networks utilizing emerging technology including: TelePresence Video, Unified Communications and Data Center solutions in collaboration with industry-leading partners. We provide a comprehensive set of services including: Advisory, Implementation, Development and Support. Our Total Care support team provides a proactive approach to monitor and support customer networks, unified communications environment and data centers as well as a single-point-of-contact for the support of applications, systems and infrastructure. Equipment sales and services are marketed primarily in our Minnesota core regions and specifically the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area.

Our Telecom Segment provides bundled residential and business services including high-speed Internet, broadband services, digital TV, local voice and long distance services in our legacy telecom service area. Telecom is comprised of the operation of both incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") and competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC") operations. Our ILEC operations provide services in 13 south central Minnesota communities and 13 rural northwest Iowa communities. Our CLEC operation provides services in south central Minnesota and near Des Moines, Iowa. We own our network in both the ILEC and CLEC exchanges. The Telecom Segment, through National Independent Billing, Inc. ("NIBI"), also provides data processing and related billing services to HickoryTech and external communication providers including wireline, wireless and entertainment providers.

Segment information for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012 is as follows:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Fiber and | | | Corporate and | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| Three Months Ended September 30, 2013 | Data | Equipment | Telecom | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenue from unaffiliated customers | \$ 16,736 | \$ 15,338 | \$ 15,014 | \$ - | \$ 47,088 |
| Intersegment revenue | 222 | - | 552 | (774) | - |
| Total operating revenue | 16,958 | 15,338 | 15,566 | (774) | 47,088 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 3,078 | 139 | 4,289 | 8 | 7,514 |
| Operating income | 1,722 | 1,031 | 1,503 | 30 | 4,286 |
| Interest expense | - | - | 6 | 1,149 | 1,155 |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 697 | 417 | 607 | (451) | 1,270 |
| Net income (loss) | 1,024 | 614 | 891 | (667) | 1,862 |
| Total assets | 114,725 | 18,285 | 116,081 | 11,867 | 260,958 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 95,817 | 2,086 | 83,688 | 91 | 181,682 |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | 4,725 | 31 | 3,746 | - | 8,502 |

Edgar Filing: HICKORY TECH CORP - Form 10-Q

| Three Months Ended September 30, 2012 | Fiber and | | | Corporate and | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| | Data | Equipment | Telecom | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenue from unaffiliated customers | \$ 15,528 | \$ 15,001 | \$ 15,284 | \$ - | \$ 45,813 |
| Intersegment revenue | 215 | - | 465 | (680) | - |
| Total operating revenue | 15,743 | 15,001 | 15,749 | (680) | 45,813 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,638 | 71 | 4,146 | 14 | 6,869 |
| Operating income (loss) | 2,445 | 890 | 1,377 | (155) | 4,557 |
| Interest expense | 2 | - | 9 | 1,614 | 1,625 |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 990 | 360 | 554 | (710) | 1,194 |
| Net income (loss) | 1,454 | 529 | 816 | (1,058) | 1,741 |
| Total assets | 109,869 | 21,213 | 120,056 | 17,613 | 268,750 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 88,157 | 1,347 | 87,237 | 62 | 176,803 |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | 6,390 | (15) | 2,979 | - | 9,354 |

16

Table of Contents

| (Dollars in thousands) | Fiber and | | | Corporate and | |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------------|
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2013 | Data | Equipment | Telecom | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenue from unaffiliated customers | \$49,986 | \$ 47,691 | \$45,321 | \$ - | \$ 142,998 |
| Intersegment revenue | 648 | - | 1,696 | (2,344) | - |
| Total operating revenue | 50,634 | 47,691 | 47,017 | (2,344) | 142,998 |
| Asset impairment | 638 | - | - | - | 638 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 8,796 | 348 | 12,608 | 23 | 21,775 |
| Operating income (loss) | 5,609 | 2,786 | 4,984 | (230) | 13,149 |
| Interest expense | - | - | 20 | 3,405 | 3,425 |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 2,286 | 1,132 | 2,023 | (1,510) | 3,931 |
| Net income (loss) | 3,325 | 1,654 | 2,952 | (2,122) | 5,809 |
| Total assets | 114,725 | 18,285 | 116,081 | 11,867 | 260,958 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 95,817 | 2,086 | 83,688 | 91 | 181,682 |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | 10,638 | 992 | 9,125 | 52 | 20,807 |

| (Dollars in thousands) | Fiber and | | | Corporate and | |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------------|
| Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 | Data | Equipment | Telecom | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| Revenue from unaffiliated customers | \$43,924 | \$ 45,286 | \$47,404 | \$ - | \$ 136,614 |
| Intersegment revenue | 601 | - | 1,319 | (1,920) | - |
| Total operating revenue | 44,525 | 45,286 | 48,723 | (1,920) | 136,614 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 7,155 | 213 | 12,364 | 63 | 19,795 |
| Operating income (loss) | 7,074 | 2,109 | 5,557 | (444) | 14,296 |
| Interest expense | 2 | - | 31 | 4,602 | 4,635 |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 2,865 | 854 | 2,246 | (2,040) | 3,925 |
| Net income (loss) | 4,208 | 1,254 | 3,301 | (2,990) | 5,773 |
| Total assets | 109,869 | 21,213 | 120,056 | 17,613 | 268,750 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 88,157 | 1,347 | 87,237 | 62 | 176,803 |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment | 11,958 | 175 | 6,777 | - | 18,910 |

Note 16. Commitments and Contingencies

We are involved in certain contractual disputes in the ordinary course of business, but do not believe the resolution of any of these existing matters will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Forward Looking Statements

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 contains certain safe harbor provisions regarding forward-looking statements. This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may include forward-looking statements. These statements may include, without limitation, statements with respect to anticipated future operating and financial performance, growth opportunities and growth rates, acquisition and divestiture opportunities, business strategies, business and competitive outlook, and other similar forecasts and statements of expectation. Words such as "expects,"

"anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates," "targets," "projects," "will," "may," "continues," and "should," and variations of these words and similar expressions, are intended to identify these forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from such statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to, those contained in Item 1A of Part II, "Risk Factors" of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Item 1A of Part I, "Risk Factors" of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents

Because of these risks, uncertainties, and assumptions and the fact that any forward-looking statements made by us and our management are based on estimates, projections, beliefs, and assumptions of management, they are not guarantees of future performance and you should not place undue reliance on them. In addition, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. With the exception of the requirements set forth in the federal securities laws or the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we do not undertake any obligations to update any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of our financial statements requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, and the related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. A description of the accounting policies we consider particularly important for the portrayal of our results of operations and financial position, and which may require a higher level of judgment by our management, is contained under the caption, "Critical Accounting Policies," in the Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012.

Overview

We are an integrated communications solution provider serving the upper Midwest engaged in providing an array of services to customers ranging from residential, business and enterprise to service providers and carriers over our multi-state fiber network spanning 4,100 route miles. We offer advanced business and IP networking services, data services, voice and VoIP, managed hosted services, high-capacity transport services, MPLS, equipment solutions, high-speed Internet, digital TV, local and long distance services.

Results of Operations

We conduct our operations in three business segments: (i) Fiber and Data, (ii) Equipment and (iii) Telecom. An overall description of our business segments can be found in Note 15 "Quarterly Segment Financial Summary."

Executive Summary

We continue to focus on growth opportunities with our business customers while adhering to our service commitment and sustaining our traditional telecom business. We concentrate our efforts on business and broadband as customers move away from traditional voice services to advanced communication services. Business and broadband services accounted for approximately 79% of our total revenue for the quarter and year-to-date periods in 2013 compared to 77% in the third quarter of 2012 and 76% for the year-to-date period of 2012. This revenue is derived from the Fiber and Data Segment, Equipment Segment and broadband revenue from our Telecom Segment. We will leverage our regional network and long-haul routes to provide wireless transport or backhaul services. We continue to invest in our network and our fiber-to-the-tower capital initiative to accommodate the increased network capacity requirements for wireless carriers as the demand for data usage increases. We will continue to expand and refine our product portfolio to meet the demands of our business customers with integrated voice and data services to offer them flexibility in meeting their communication needs.

HickoryTech announced in October 2013 it will change its brand to Enventis across the company's entire service area. We previously had a two-brand strategy, leveraging Enventis as the primary brand in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area, northern Minnesota, Rochester, Minnesota, Fargo, North Dakota and Des Moines, Iowa and promoting HickoryTech as the primary brand in southern Minnesota and northwest Iowa. Going forward, Enventis will be the cohesive brand used throughout our operations and service area. We will seek shareholder approval to

change our corporate name to Enventis at the shareholder meeting in May 2014.

Consolidated third quarter revenue grew \$1.3M representing an increase of 3% compared to 2012. Year-to-date revenue of \$143.0M increased 5% from a year ago. We experienced growth in both our business and wholesale services making up the Fiber and Data Segment revenue; a reflection of our success in selling data, internet and voice solutions and services to enterprise and small-business customers and fiber access services to carriers. Third quarter Equipment Segment revenue posted growth of 2% driven primarily by our success in selling and renewing maintenance contracts and 5% year-to-date due to increased equipment sales. Growth in Telecom broadband revenue of 8% in the third quarter and 4% year-to-date helped to mitigate the anticipated decline in traditional local service and network access revenue resulting in a modest total Telecom revenue decline of 1% in the third quarter and 4% year-to-date.

Table of Contents

Total costs and expenses increased 4% in the third quarter of 2013 and 6% year-to-date compared to 2012 reflecting our commitment to support the growth in our Fiber and Data Segment and reflecting the equipment sales volume levels for the periods. Depreciation and amortization expense increased 9% in the third quarter and 10% year-to-date driven by the acquired IdeaOne assets and increased levels of capital expenditures. We made significant investments in our network to expand our fiber footprint, and increase capacity and reliability. We completed our Greater Minnesota Broadband Collaborative Project extending our fiber network to connect rural communities across the state with broadband infrastructure. The route added 430 fiber route miles to our statewide fiber network. Interest expense declined 29% in the current quarter and 26% year-to-date primarily driven by the adoption of hedge accounting on January 1, 2013 for our interest rate swaps and a decline of our outstanding debt balance.

Third quarter net income of \$1.9 million, or \$0.14 per diluted share, is up 7% or \$0.01 per diluted share and year-to-date net income of \$5.8 million, or \$0.43 per diluted share, is relatively unchanged compared to 2012.

19

Table of Contents

Fiber and Data Segment

The following table provides detail of the Fiber and Data Segment operating results.

Fiber and Data

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | Nine Months Ended | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|---|
| | September 30 2013 | 2012 | % Change | September 30 2013 | 2012 | % Change | |
| Operating revenue before intersegment eliminations: | | | | | | | |
| Business | \$9,543 | \$8,808 | 8 | % \$28,206 | \$23,928 | 18 | % |
| Wholesale | 7,193 | 6,720 | 7 | % 21,780 | 19,996 | 9 | % |
| Intersegment | 222 | 215 | 3 | % 648 | 601 | 8 | % |
| Total operating revenue | \$16,958 | \$15,743 | 8 | % \$50,634 | \$44,525 | 14 | % |
| Cost of services | | | | | | | |
| (excluding depreciation and amortization) | \$8,906 | \$7,735 | 15 | % \$25,746 | \$21,819 | 18 | % |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 3,252 | 2,925 | 11 | % 9,845 | 8,477 | 16 | % |
| Asset impairment | - | - | 0 | % 638 | - | 100 | % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 3,078 | 2,638 | 17 | % 8,796 | 7,155 | 23 | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 15,236 | 13,298 | 15 | % 45,025 | 37,451 | 20 | % |
| Operating income | \$1,722 | \$2,445 | -30 | % \$5,609 | \$7,074 | -21 | % |
| Net income | \$1,024 | \$1,454 | -30 | % \$3,325 | \$4,208 | -21 | % |
| Capital expenditures | \$4,725 | \$6,390 | -26 | % \$10,638 | \$11,958 | -11 | % |

The financial results of this segment include IdeaOne Telecom's operations beginning on March 1, 2012.

Revenue

The Fiber and Data Segment revenue stream is generally based on multi-year contracts building a monthly recurring revenue base.

Business. We serve enterprise and commercial business customers with advanced data services such as Ethernet, Private Line, MPLS, Dedicated Internet, voice and VoIP services. We develop data and Internet solutions to meet the needs of our customers.

Fiber and Data business revenue grew \$735,000 or 8% in the third quarter and \$4,278,000 or 18% year-to-date compared to 2012. We remain focused on providing business solutions to meet our customers voice and data needs. Growth in these customer services is driven by sales of data services including: Ethernet, MPLS, Dedicated Internet, Private Line and VoIP services along with continued success in the Fargo, North Dakota market following our IdeaOne acquisition.

Wholesale. We provide fiber and data services to regional and national service providers including wireless carriers, telecom providers and other service providers. We provide fiber-based transport and access services through our extensive regional fiber network and community access rings, supported by a 24x7x365 Network Operations Center. Our services can be extended beyond our regional network through agreements and interconnections with other

carriers for end-to-end national connectivity. Our expertise allows us to deliver custom network solutions and leverage our capabilities to provide a high-bandwidth, self-healing platform to provide reliable service.

20

Table of Contents

Fiber and Data wholesale revenue grew \$473,000 or 7% in the third quarter and \$1,784,000 or 9% year-to-date. Overall growth is stimulated by demand for additional bandwidth supporting our fiber-based services sold to wireless carriers for fiber-to-the-tower initiatives. However, these customer services continue to be negatively impacted by industry consolidation, technological changes, customer network optimization and price compression. The number of fiber-served cell sites we serve increased from 43 to 69 sites year-over-year. We have contracts to build fiber to approximately 50 additional cell sites turning up over the next six months. We expect that continued revenue growth in this area by building to additional cell sites and by offering additional bandwidth on existing towers will be tempered by customer network optimization and price compression.

Cost of Services (excluding Depreciation and Amortization)

Cost of services increased \$1,171,000 or 15% in the third quarter and \$3,927,000 or 18% year-to-date compared to 2012. The higher cost of services is attributable to: (1) an increase of \$436,000 in the quarter and \$1,211,000 year-to-date in wages and benefits driven by a higher staffing level required to support the increased operational activities in this segment, (2) an increase of \$216,000 in the quarter and \$927,000 year-to-date in circuit-related expenses which support the demand for our transport products and customer equipment associated with services, (3) an increase in material costs of \$131,000 in the quarter and \$259,000 year-to-date related to the sale of our VoIP product, (4) an increase of \$66,000 during the quarter and \$282,000 year-to-date in maintenance contracts related to the deployment of new infrastructure and customer premise equipment and (5) an increase of \$37,000 during the quarter and \$185,000 year-to-date in contract labor due to a higher rate of contractor services to augment staffing. We experienced growth in other expenses related to growth in the segment.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative ("SG&A") expenses, as a percentage of revenue were approximately 19% for both the quarter and year-to-date periods ended September 30, 2013 and 2012. We remain focused on scaling the business and improving our processes. SG&A expenses increased \$327,000 or 11% in the third quarter and \$1,368,000 or 16% year-to-date compared to 2012 primarily due to higher personnel-related expenses and corporate costs. Personnel expenses which include wages and benefits, bonuses and commissions increased \$91,000 in the third quarter and \$458,000 year-to-date. Corporate expenses were \$219,000 higher in the third quarter and \$658,000 year-to-date as we focus our attention and resources on this segment.

Asset Impairment

We recognized an asset impairment of \$633,000 in the first quarter of 2013 related to assets supporting a service we elected to discontinue. Minor adjustments to fully recognize the impairment on all related assets resulted in adding \$5,000 in the second quarter to bring the final year-to-date impairment recognition to \$638,000.

Depreciation and Amortization

Fiber and Data Segment depreciation and amortization increased \$440,000 or 17% in the third quarter and \$1,641,000 or 23% year-to-date as compared to the same periods in 2012. The increase is driven by increased capital expenditures supporting revenue generating projects and network enhancements to increase our reliability and capacity. IdeaOne also contributed to the year-to-date increase.

Table of Contents

Equipment Segment

The following table provides detail of the Equipment Segment operating results.

Equipment

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | Nine Months Ended | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|---|
| | September 30 | | % Change | September 30 | | % Change | |
| | 2013 | 2012 | | 2013 | 2012 | | |
| Operating revenue before intersegment eliminations: | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | \$12,849 | \$12,915 | -1 | % \$41,123 | \$38,954 | 6 | % |
| Services | 2,489 | 2,086 | 19 | % 6,568 | 6,332 | 4 | % |
| Total operating revenue | \$15,338 | \$15,001 | 2 | % \$47,691 | \$45,286 | 5 | % |
| Cost of sales | | | | | | | |
| (excluding depreciation and amortization) | \$10,929 | \$10,906 | 0 | % \$35,011 | \$33,664 | 4 | % |
| Cost of services | | | | | | | |
| (excluding depreciation and amortization) | 1,803 | 1,802 | 0 | % 5,306 | 5,141 | 3 | % |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 1,436 | 1,332 | 8 | % 4,240 | 4,159 | 2 | % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 139 | 71 | 96 | % 348 | 213 | 63 | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 14,307 | 14,111 | 1 | % 44,905 | 43,177 | 4 | % |
| Operating income | \$1,031 | \$890 | 16 | % \$2,786 | \$2,109 | 32 | % |
| Net income | \$614 | \$529 | 16 | % \$1,654 | \$1,254 | 32 | % |
| Capital expenditures | \$31 | \$(15) | 307 | % \$992 | \$175 | 467 | % |

Revenue

Equipment. We are a Master Unified Communications and Gold Certified Cisco partner providing Cisco equipment solutions and support for a broad spectrum of business customers ranging in size from medium to large enterprise. Our equipment business solutions team plans, designs and implements networks utilizing emerging technological advancements including TelePresence Video, Unified Communications and Data Center solutions. We also utilize relationships with other industry-leading vendors to provide integrated communication solutions for our clients to meet their emerging networking needs. Equipment sales are non-recurring in nature making this revenue dependent upon attracting new sales from existing and new customers, as well as leveraging relationships with our current customer base by adding more value through enhanced product and service offerings.

Equipment revenue was relatively unchanged in the third quarter and up \$2,169,000 or 6% year-to-date compared to 2012. Higher year-to-date revenue is related to the increased size and volume of orders in 2013 compared to 2012. Customers continue to invest in technology and IT solutions such as unified communication products, data center products, cloud computing solutions, storage, data analysis and IT virtualization.

Table of Contents

Services. We provide a comprehensive set of services to support equipment solutions, including: advisory, implementation, development and support. We have the expertise and experience to transform the available technology into solutions to solve business challenges and meet their objectives. Maintenance contracts ("Smartnet" contracts) are offered in collaboration with Cisco systems. Our Total Care support team provides a proactive approach to monitoring and supporting customer networks, unified communications environments and data centers as well as a single-point-of-contact for the support of applications, systems and infrastructure.

Equipment services revenue increased \$403,000 or 19% in the third quarter and \$236,000 or 4% year-to-date compared to 2012. Maintenance revenue is a large contributor to equipment services revenue and is dependent upon timing of equipment installations. Maintenance contracts typically range in term from three to five years and are renewable upon expiration. We experienced an increase of \$182,000 during the quarter and a decline of \$180,000 year-to-date in maintenance revenue. The receipt of Cisco rebates in the third quarter drove the quarterly maintenance revenue increase but in the first six months of the year we did not achieve the thresholds necessary to receive the rebates driving the year-to-date decline. These rebates are an incentive for us to sell and renew maintenance contracts. We experienced an increase in contract services revenue of \$72,000 in the third quarter and \$331,000 year-to-date. In order to grow the recurring revenue in this segment, our strategy is to focus on selling professional and support services with our equipment solutions; leveraging our resources and allowing our clients to focus on their business initiatives limiting their risk in supporting business applications.

Cost of Sales (excluding Depreciation and Amortization)

Cost of sales is composed of equipment material costs associated with equipment sales. Cost of sales was flat for the quarter as a result of relatively flat equipment sales when compared to the same period of the previous year. The increase in the year-to-date cost of sales is due to a similar increase in equipment revenues. Labor associated with installation of the equipment is included in cost of services (excluding depreciation and amortization) described below.

Cost of Services (excluding Depreciation and Amortization)

Cost of services remained relatively unchanged in the third quarter and increased \$165,000 or 3% year-to-date compared to 2012. The increase is primarily from wages and benefits which were \$4,000 and \$138,000 higher in the quarter and year-to-date period compared to 2012.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$104,000 or 8% in the third quarter and \$81,000 or 2% year-to-date compared to 2012 due to a quarterly increase in wages and benefits of \$57,000 and year-to-date increase of \$133,000. We also experienced an increase of \$68,000 during the quarter and \$164,000 in year-to-date commissions which is directly correlated to the revenue growth. The increase in SG&A was partially offset by a decrease of \$74,000 during the quarter and \$223,000 year-to-date in corporate expense.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation expense increased \$68,000 or 96% in the third quarter and \$135,000 or 63% year-to-date compared to 2012, driven by expansion of office space.

Table of Contents

Telecom Segment

The following table provides detail of the Telecom Segment operating results.

Telecom

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | Nine Months Ended | | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|--|--|
| | September 30 2013 | 2012 | % Change | September 30 2013 | 2012 | % Change | | |
| Operating revenue before intersegment eliminations: | | | | | | | | |
| Local service | \$2,821 | \$3,124 | -10 % | \$8,669 | \$9,901 | -12 % | | |
| Network access | 4,313 | 4,677 | -8 % | 13,496 | 14,329 | -6 % | | |
| Broadband | 5,241 | 4,861 | 8 % | 15,487 | 14,840 | 4 % | | |
| Directory | 677 | 764 | -11 % | 2,137 | 2,316 | -8 % | | |
| Long distance | 593 | 611 | -3 % | 1,749 | 1,895 | -8 % | | |
| Bill processing | 1,061 | 950 | 12 % | 2,914 | 3,190 | -9 % | | |
| Intersegment | 552 | 465 | 19 % | 1,696 | 1,319 | 29 % | | |
| Other | 308 | 297 | 4 % | 869 | 933 | -7 % | | |
| Total Telecom operating revenue | \$15,566 | \$15,749 | -1 % | \$47,017 | \$48,723 | -4 % | | |
| Total Telecom revenue before intersegment eliminations | | | | | | | | |
| Unaffiliated customers | \$15,014 | \$15,284 | | \$45,321 | \$47,404 | | | |
| Intersegment | 552 | 465 | | 1,696 | 1,319 | | | |
| | 15,566 | 15,749 | | 47,017 | 48,723 | | | |
| Cost of services (excluding depreciation and amortization) | | | | | | | | |
| | 7,415 | 7,447 | 0 % | 22,095 | 22,373 | -1 % | | |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 2,359 | 2,779 | -15 % | 7,330 | 8,429 | -13 % | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 4,289 | 4,146 | 3 % | 12,608 | 12,364 | 2 % | | |
| Total Telecom costs and expenses | 14,063 | 14,372 | -2 % | 42,033 | 43,166 | -3 % | | |
| Operating income | \$1,503 | \$1,377 | 9 % | \$4,984 | \$5,557 | -10 % | | |
| Net income | \$891 | \$816 | 9 % | \$2,952 | \$3,301 | -11 % | | |
| Capital expenditures | \$3,746 | \$2,979 | 26 % | \$9,125 | \$6,777 | 35 % | | |
| Key metrics | | | | | | | | |
| Business access lines | 19,317 | 20,546 | -6 % | | | | | |
| Residential access lines | 21,149 | 22,715 | -7 % | | | | | |
| Total access lines | 40,466 | 43,261 | -6 % | | | | | |
| Long distance customers | 29,001 | 30,662 | -5 % | | | | | |
| Digital subscriber line customers | 20,793 | 19,751 | 5 % | | | | | |
| Digital TV customers | 11,327 | 10,341 | 10 % | | | | | |

Revenue

Local Service. We receive recurring revenue for local residential and business voice services, enhanced calling features and miscellaneous local services. We also receive reciprocal compensation revenue based on interconnection agreements with wireless carriers who use our network to terminate calls.

Table of Contents

Local service revenue declined \$303,000 or 10% in the third quarter and \$1,232,000 or 12% year-to-date compared to the same periods in 2012. As with most communication companies, we have been impacted by the industry-wide decline in access lines and price compression due to competition and alternative communication options; experiencing a 6% access line decline in the third quarter of 2013. FCC Order 11-161, issued in November 2011, reformed core parts of the Universal Service Fund and intercarrier compensation negatively impacting local service revenue as well as network access revenue. The Order mandated elimination of reciprocal compensation from wireless carriers contributing approximately 11% of the quarterly decline and 24% of the year-to-date decline. Also contributing to the access line decline is the transition of our customers from traditional voice services to our enhanced VoIP product which is offered through the Fiber and Data Segment.

In an effort to mitigate the trend of declining access lines, we focus on customer retention by providing competitive service bundles and promotions along with term discounts. The associated bundles offer our customers competitive and flexible options to satisfy their communication and entertainment needs.

Network Access. We provide access services to other communications carriers to terminate or originate long distance calls on our network. We also bill subscriber line charges to our customers for access to the public switched network. Network access revenue is derived from several federally administered pooling arrangements designed to provide support and distribute funding to Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers ("ILEC").

Network access revenue declined \$364,000 or 8% in the third quarter of 2013 and \$833,000 or 6% year-to-date compared to 2012. Continued erosion of our access lines and lower minutes of use on our network driven by competition and network grooming/optimization by the carriers are the main contributors to the current year revenue decline. This revenue stream was, and will continue to be, impacted by regulatory decisions; particularly FCC Order 11-161 that established a framework for the reform of the Universal Service Fund and intercarrier compensation. Provisions in FCC Order 11-161 call for reductions of interstate and intrastate access charges through gradual annual reductions in rates for certain access components. However, the introduction of the Connect America Fund ("CAF") and increased charges to end-user subscribers has helped to mitigate this revenue stream decline. In both periods, we experienced a decline in minutes-of-use, end-user and special access revenue which was partially offset by the receipt of CAF support.

Broadband. We provide residential and business broadband services for monthly recurring revenue. Broadband services include: high-speed Internet access, digital TV services, and business Ethernet and data services.

Broadband revenue increased \$380,000 or 8% in the current quarter and \$647,000 or 4% year-to-date compared to 2012. The broadband revenue growth can be attributed to the success of our multi-service bundles which is reflected in the 10% and 5% growth in our digital TV and DSL customer subscribers, respectively, and the restructuring of our DSL services.

We strive to provide the best service experiences for both our residential and business customers. We remain focused on delivering reliable and competitive broadband services; therefore continuing to invest in our broadband network. We offer our customers competitive and flexible options through our multi-service bundles which provide pricing discounts when bundling digital TV, Internet and/or voice services. Additional discounts are offered if a customer opts into a six-month, one- or two-year agreement. We launched our updated service bundles in July of 2012 and as of September 30, 2013 have more than 10,500 bundle subscribers consisting of both new and existing customers who have taken advantage of the bundle savings with approximately 94% opting into a two-year agreement. We believe the product bundles positively impact our customer retention and provide our customers with valuable money-saving packages.

Directory. We receive monthly recurring revenue from subscribers for yellow page advertising in our telephone directories. Our Directory sales and production are outsourced through an external partner.

Directory revenue declined \$87,000 or 11% in the third quarter and \$179,000 or 8% year-to-date compared to 2012. This revenue stream is expected to trend lower in the future as businesses migrate from traditional printed directories to online media platforms.

25

Table of Contents

Long Distance. We charge our end-user customers for toll or long distance service on either a per-call or flat-rate basis. Services include the provision of directory assistance, operator service and long distance private lines. We offer a variety of long distance calling plans including regional, nationwide and unlimited long distance plans.

Long distance revenue declined \$18,000 or 3% in the current quarter and \$146,000 or 8% year-to-date compared to the same periods in 2012. The decrease is the result of the loss of 5% of our customer base, customers opting for unlimited long distance calling plans driving lower billable minutes, lower per-minute rates in an effort to remain competitive, wireless substitution and the loss of local lines.

Bill Processing. We provide data processing and billing services to other communication service providers. We collect a combination of monthly recurring revenue, software license fees, and contract and integration services revenue. Our SuiteSolution® product offers communication providers a billing and customer management software system enabling our clients to provide consistent, cost-effective, high-quality service to their customers using the latest in database and screen presentation technology.

Bill processing revenue increased \$111,000 or 12% in the third quarter and is down \$276,000 or 9% year-to-date compared to 2012. This revenue stream is dependent upon the timing of performance on contract services including project integration services and license fees related to the sale of our SuiteSolution product. Bill processing revenue may be impacted as resources are shifted to internal projects in an effort to streamline and improve our process efficiencies.

Other Revenue. Other revenue consists primarily of sales of wholesale contract services, late fees applied to subscriber billings, and add, move, and change revenue on customer premise equipment.

Other revenue increased \$11,000 or 4% during the quarter and is down \$64,000 or 7% year-to-date compared to 2012. The quarterly increase is attributed to higher revenue related to late fees and the year-over-year decline is attributed to lower customer premise equipment revenue and revenue associated with our wholesale contract services.

Cost of Services (excluding Depreciation and Amortization)

Cost of services (excluding depreciation and amortization) was unchanged in the third quarter and \$278,000 or 1% lower year-to-date compared to 2012. The primary contributors include: (1) a decline of \$109,000 during the quarter and \$369,000 year-to-date in access expense which is a direct result of lower long distance revenue and a declining customer base, (2) a decline of \$74,000 for the quarter and \$229,000 year-to-date in wages and benefits due to a smaller workforce and savings in post-retirement benefits as a result of a plan amendment, (3) a decline of \$71,000 during the quarter and \$142,000 year-to-date in bad debt expense due to improved customer retention associated with the bundles and (4) lower maintenance contracts of \$40,000 during the quarter and \$115,000 year-to-date. A combination of other expense savings also contributed to the overall decline. The expense decreases noted above were partially offset by growth in our programming costs of \$168,000 during the quarter and \$458,000 year-to-date which can be attributed to higher costs associated with providing our digital TV service and our growing customer subscriber base. In addition, an increase of \$95,000 during the quarter and \$351,000 year-to-date in off-net costs associated with providing services to our customers beyond the reach of our network offset our expense decreases.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$420,000 or 15% lower in the third quarter and \$1,099,000 or 13% lower year-to-date compared to 2012. The decline can be attributed to (1) a decrease of \$260,000 during the quarter and \$597,000 year-to-date in wages and benefits due to a reduction in our workforce and savings in post-retirement benefits as a result of a plan amendment, (2) a decrease of \$71,000 during the quarter and \$212,000 year-to-date in corporate expense as more focus and resources shift toward the Fiber and Data Segment and (3) a decrease of \$52,000

during the quarter and \$191,000 year-to-date in regulatory fees.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$143,000 or 3% in the third quarter and \$244,000 or 2% year-to-date compared to 2012 driven by our continued investments in system upgrades to enhance our process efficiencies and capital expenditures related to our broadband services.

Table of Contents

Consolidated Results

Interest Expense

Consolidated interest expense was \$470,000 or 29% lower in the third quarter of 2013 and \$1,210,000 or 26% lower year-to-date compared to the same period in 2012 primarily driven a reduction in our outstanding debt balance and the accounting treatment of our interest rate swap agreements. The outstanding balance of our debt obligations (long-term and current portion) declined \$1,553,000 from \$137,155,000 at September 30, 2012 to \$135,602,000 as of September 30, 2013. The September 30, 2013 debt balance decreased \$1,179,000 since December 31, 2012. During 2013, the changes in the fair value in the swap agreements are primarily recorded as a component of equity due to designating the derivatives as cash flow hedges as of January 1, 2013. During 2012, the changes in the fair value of the swap agreements were recorded as an adjustment to interest expense.

Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate for the third quarter of 2013 and 2012 was 40.5% and 40.7%, respectively and 40.4% and 40.5% for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The effective tax rate from operations differs from the federal statutory rate primarily due to state income taxes.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Working Capital

Working capital (current assets minus current liabilities) was \$13,099,000 as of September 30, 2013 compared to working capital of \$11,364,000 as of December 31, 2012. The ratio of current assets to current liabilities was 1.5 as of September 30, 2013 and 1.3 as of December 31, 2012.

Capital Structure

The total capital structure (long-term and current maturities of long-term debt obligations plus shareholders' equity) was \$184,367,000 at September 30, 2013, reflecting 26% equity and 74% debt. This compares to a total capital structure of \$185,629,000 at December 31, 2012, also reflecting 26% equity and 74% debt. In the communications industry, the capacity for debt financing is most often based on multiples of operating cash flows. Specifically, our current use of the senior credit facility is in a ratio of approximately 2.85 times debt to Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization, ("EBITDA") as defined in our credit agreement. We are well within the acceptable limit for our agreement of 3.25 times debt to EBITDA, as of September 30, 2013, and well within the levels experienced in our industry. The October 30, 2013 amendment to our credit facility, see Note 7 "Debt and Other Obligations", reset the acceptable limit to a ratio of 3.50. Our leverage ratio of 2.85 times debt to EBITDA is well within our amended credit facility limit of 3.50 times, and is a source of strength as we consider growth possibilities.

We employ an extended term payable financing arrangement for the equipment provisioning portion of our Equipment Segment and view this arrangement as a structured accounts payable that is paid within 60 days with no separate interest charge. As such, the extended term payable financing amount of \$7,520,000 and \$8,115,000 as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012, respectively, is not considered to be part of our capital structure and has been excluded from the references above regarding debt and total capital. See Note 9 "Extended Term Payable."

Internal operations of our business continue to be our primary source of liquidity. We have invested in capital expenditures, paid interest, taxes and dividends while paying down our debt obligations. We have not changed our equity capitalization, and new equity was not a source of liquidity during this period. Our cash and cash equivalents balance decreased \$1,789,000 from \$8,305,000 at December 31, 2012 to \$6,516,000 as of September 30, 2013

primarily due to the timing of our capital expenditures and the working capital needs of our Equipment Segment. We also repurchased \$1,275,000 of our common stock in 2013.

Table of Contents

Cash Flows

Management expects our cash flows from operations, cash and cash equivalents, and borrowings available under our credit facility will be sufficient to meet our current and long-term liquidity and capital requirements. For temporary increases in cash demand, we utilize our cash inflow and for more significant fluctuations in liquidity driven by growth initiatives, we rely on our senior credit facility. These sources coupled with our access to a \$30,000,000 revolving credit facility (presently unused) provide further assurance against interruption in our business plans due to financing. Our expected primary cash outflows include: funding ongoing working capital requirements, capital expenditures, scheduled principal and interest payments on our credit facility, temporary financing of trade accounts receivable and the payment of dividends as they are declared.

While it is difficult for us to predict the impact general economic conditions may have on our business, we believe that we will be able to meet our current and long-term cash requirements through our operating cash flows. We are in full compliance with our debt covenants and anticipate that we will be able to plan for and match future liquidity needs with future internal and available external resources. Our bank credit agreement will be the sole external source of financing for the foreseeable future.

We feel we can adjust the timing or the number of strategic and growth initiatives accordingly to correspond to any limitation we may face or be imposed by our capital structure or sources of financing. We do not anticipate our capital structure will limit future growth initiatives over the next 12 months.

The following table details the cash flow changes for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 and 2012:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Nine Months Ended September 30 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|------|---|
| | 2013 | 2012 | Variance | % | |
| Net cash provided by (used in): | | | | | |
| Operating activities | \$27,068 | \$23,622 | \$3,446 | 15 | % |
| Investing activities | (20,617) | (43,741) | 23,124 | -53 | % |
| Financing activities | (8,240) | 17,113 | (25,353) | -148 | % |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | \$(1,789) | \$(3,006) | \$1,217 | -40 | % |

Cash from operations represents the amount of cash generated by our daily operations after the payment of operating obligations and is our most significant source of liquidity. In both years, cash generated from operations was primarily attributable to net income and non-cash expenses included depreciation and amortization. Operating assets and liabilities decreased \$1,971,000 in 2013 compared to \$3,679,000 in 2012. The change is primarily driven by our receivables and inventory balances which relate to the timing and volume of equipment orders associated with our Equipment Segment. The change is also reflective of increases in payments to decrease vendor payables and liabilities primarily related to our incentive compensation plans.

The decrease of \$23,124,000 in investing activities from 2012 to 2013 is primarily related to the acquisition of IdeaOne in 2012 for \$26,337,000. Capital expenditures continue to be our primary recurring investing activity and increased \$1,931,000 or 10% when comparing 2013 to 2012, excluding the receipt of the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant. Our capital expenditures will be directed toward leveraging our statewide fiber network in success-based and network expansion projects, such as customer fiber builds, fiber to cell sites and expansion in key strategic locations. A portion of our capital expenditures is also dedicated to essential network upgrades and maintenance along with internal system upgrades. We expect our 2013 capital spending to be within our guidance.

Our Greater Minnesota Broadband Collaborative project was funded in part by the NTIA BTOP grant and extended our fiber-optic network across greater Minnesota to provide governmental, educational and health care organizations the opportunity to connect to a high-capacity broadband network. The three-year grant period ended July 31, 2013 and all construction was completed as required under the grant agreement. Total allowable costs of \$21,053,000 were incurred during the three-year grant. In addition, administrative costs of \$43,000 were incurred during the subsequent closeout period, through September 30, 2013. Total costs of \$21,096,000 were incurred under the grant. Seventy percent of this amount, or \$14,767,000, has been reimbursed by the NTIA.

Table of Contents

Financing activities primarily consist of borrowings and payments on our credit facility, payment of dividends to our shareholders and the repurchase of our common stock. The significant change is due to an Incremental Term credit facility of \$22,000,000 we entered into to purchase IdeaOne Telecom, as an extension of our senior credit facility. Due to the timing and volume of equipment orders in our Equipment Segment, there was a \$595,000 decrease in our extended term payable in the first nine months of 2013 compared to an increase of \$7,089,000 in 2012. Cash dividends during the first nine months of 2013 and 2012 were \$5,900,000 and \$5,658,000, respectively. In October 2013, our Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.15 per share payable in the fourth quarter of 2013. We expect to pay similar dividends in the future; however, this will be dependent upon many factors, such as operating results, capital requirements, debt compliance and other factors. In 2011, the Board of Directors authorized a stock repurchase plan to repurchase up to \$3,000,000 of our common stock of which approximately \$2,676,000 was still available at the beginning of 2013. During the first half of the year, we repurchased 124,285 shares for a total cost of \$1,275,000. There were no repurchases or retirements during the third quarter of 2013. There is now approximately \$1,401,000 remaining of the overall \$3,000,000 approved by the Board of Directors for the repurchase of shares.

Our long-term obligations, including current maturities of debt and capital leases as of September 30, 2013 and December 31, 2012 were \$135,602,000 and \$136,781,000, respectively. Our credit facility requires us to comply with specified financial ratios and tests. The financial ratios required by our credit facility are not calculated in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("non-GAAP financial measures"). The non-GAAP financial measures are presented below for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with our debt covenants:

(Dollars in thousands)

| | September 30, 2013 |
|---|-----------------------|
| Leverage Ratio: | |
| (A) Total debt (including outstanding letters of credit) | \$ 135,622 |
| Adjusted EBITDA as defined by our credit agreement | |
| Three months ended 9-30-13 | 11,801 |
| Three months ended 6-30-13 | 12,276 |
| Three months ended 3-31-13 | 11,501 |
| Three months ended 12-31-12 | 12,048 |
| (B) Total adjusted EBITDA as defined by our credit agreement | \$ 47,626 |
| Total leverage ratio (A)/(B) | 2.85 |
| Maximum leverage ratio allowed (under credit agreement prior to October 30, 2013 amendment) | 3.25 |

(Dollars in thousands)

Debt Service Coverage

Ratio:

September 30, 2013

Adjusted EBITDA as defined by our credit agreement, minus

\$ 47,626

Income taxes

(5,389)

(A)

\$ 42,237

(B) the sum of (i) all scheduled principal payments to be made on debt and (ii) interest expense

6,184

| | |
|--|-----|
| Debt service coverage ratio (A)/(B) | 6.8 |
| Minimum debt service ratio allowed | 2.5 |

On October 30, 2013, we amended the terms of our credit facility with a syndicate of banks, led by CoBank, ACB. The amendment provides us with continued capital resources through the extended maturity date of December 31, 2019 at a lower interest rate. The amount of our outstanding debt obligations remains unchanged as a result of the amendment.

29

Table of Contents

New Accounting Pronouncements

The financial statement impact relating to new accounting standards that have not yet been adopted by us can be found in Note 1 of the consolidated financial statements.

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

In addition to the results reported in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), we also use certain non-GAAP measures including EBITDA (as defined in our credit agreement) to evaluate operating performance and to facilitate the comparison of our historical results and trends. These non-GAAP measures are also used to manage and evaluate the operating performance of our reportable segments. These financial measures should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net income (loss) as a measure of performance and net cash flow provided by operating activities as a measure of liquidity. EBITDA is included as a supplemental disclosure because management believes that it provides (1) additional information with respect to our ability to service debt, fund capital expenditures and meet working capital requirements, (2) helpful measure for comparing our operating performance with the performance of other companies with different capital structures or tax rates and (3) comparison of our business segments performance to other public companies. Reconciliations to the most directly comparable GAAP measure are provided below.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2013 | 2012 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Net income | \$1,862 | \$1,741 | \$5,809 | \$5,773 |
| Add: | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 7,514 | 6,869 | 21,775 | 19,795 |
| Interest expense | 1,155 | 1,625 | 3,425 | 4,635 |
| Income taxes | 1,270 | 1,194 | 3,931 | 3,925 |
| EBITDA | \$11,801 | \$11,429 | \$34,940 | \$34,128 |
| Asset impairment | - | - | 638 | - |
| Adjusted EBITDA as defined by our credit agreement | \$11,801 | \$11,429 | \$35,578 | \$34,128 |

| (Dollars in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Sep-13 | Jun-13 | Mar-13 | Dec-12 |
| Reconciliation of net income to EBITDA: | | | | |
| Net income | \$1,862 | \$2,321 | \$1,626 | \$2,525 |
| Add: | | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 7,514 | 7,252 | 7,009 | 6,951 |
| Interest expense | 1,155 | 1,131 | 1,139 | 1,114 |
| Income taxes | 1,270 | 1,567 | 1,094 | 1,458 |
| EBITDA | \$11,801 | \$12,271 | \$10,868 | \$12,048 |
| Adjustments allowed under our credit agreement: | | | | |
| Asset impairment | - | 5 | 633 | - |
| Adjusted EBITDA as defined in our credit agreement | \$11,801 | \$12,276 | \$11,501 | \$12,048 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Debt to EBITDA ratio | |
| Total outstanding debt as of September 30, 2013 | \$135,622 |
| Adjusted EBITDA for the last (4) consecutive fiscal quarters as presented above | 47,626 |

Debt to EBITDA ratio as of September 30, 2013

2.85

30

Table of Contents

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We do not have operations subject to risks of foreign currency fluctuations. We do, however, use financial derivative instruments to manage exposure to interest rate fluctuations. Our objective for holding derivatives is to minimize interest rate risks using the most effective methods to eliminate or reduce the impact of these exposures. Variable rate debt instruments are subject to interest rate risk. For any portion of our debt not covered with interest rate swap agreements, our earnings are affected by changes in interest rates as a portion of its long-term debt has variable interest rates based on LIBOR. If interest rates for the portion of our long-term debt based on variable rates had averaged 10% more for the quarter ended September 30, 2013, our interest expense would have increased \$57,000.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (the Evaluation Date), we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, regarding the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded, as of the end of the period covered by this Quarterly Report, that our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as a result of the previously identified material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting, the nature of which is summarized below.

Previously Reported Material Weaknesses in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Company's annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. In connection with management's assessment of our internal control over financial reporting, we had identified material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012 as described below.

The Company did not have effective controls to provide reasonable assurance as to the selection and application of generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") to account for interest rate swap financial derivative instruments. This material weakness resulted in adjustments to interest expense, income taxes, and other comprehensive income. The restatement of certain periods of the Company's financial statements is included in our Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2011.

The Company did not have effective controls to provide reasonable assurance as to the selection and application of GAAP around complex and/or non-routine transactions, including accounting for its share-based compensation arrangements. The Company lacked adequate technical expertise to apply proper accounting methods within the provisions of FASB ASC 718, "Compensation – Stock Compensation," for our share-based compensation plans.

As a result of the material weaknesses described above, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was not effective as of December 31, 2012 based on the criteria established in the 1992 Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

For additional information regarding the material weaknesses identified by management, see "Item 9A. Controls and Procedures" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 filed on March 7, 2013 with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Remediation Efforts in 2013

Promptly following the identification of the material weaknesses as described above, management, with the oversight of the Audit Committee, began taking steps to remediate the material weaknesses. We have taken the following

actions thus far in 2013:

Engaged a third party specialist for advice and consultation with consideration of the latest interpretation of the FASB rules for all current and future hedge accounting. Services include assisting management with preparation of hedge designation documentation, consultation and support for all hedge accounting transactions, and assisting management with their periodic testing of hedge effectiveness.

Provided training and education regarding hedge accounting requirements with GAAP for all relevant personnel involved in derivatives transactions.

Determined the Company will hire additional personnel knowledgeable regarding GAAP.

31

Table of Contents

Engaged third party advisors that are knowledgeable regarding GAAP and internal controls to review the Company's financial reporting controls in areas which involve significant judgments and estimates, which involve application of complex accounting methods under GAAP, or which could have a material impact on the accuracy of our financial statements, in order to provide input to management regarding ways to strengthen the Company's control procedures in these areas.

In addition to the above steps, management intends to continue its remediation efforts by:

- Providing training and education relating to accounting for share-based payments for all relevant personnel involved in computing and recording share-based compensation cost.
- Providing ongoing training and education relating to GAAP around complex and non-routine transactions specifically identified through regular review of emerging issues and Company business activities.
- Completing our review with the assistance of a third party advisor of the Company's financial reporting controls and implementing recommended control procedures to strengthen the Company's control procedures in areas which involve significant judgments and estimates, which involve application of complex accounting methods under GAAP, or which could have a material impact on the accuracy of our financial statements.

Management intends to complete these remediation steps before the submission of our 2013 Annual Form 10-K.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There has been no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting, except for the remediation steps to address the material weaknesses in its internal control over financial reporting described above.

Under the direction of the Audit Committee, management will continue to review and make any changes it deems necessary to the overall design of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, including implementing improvements in policies and procedures.

We are committed to a strong internal control environment, and believe that, when fully implemented, the remediation actions described above will represent significant improvements in the Company's accounting function. The Company anticipates that it will complete its testing of the additional internal control processes designed to remediate these material weaknesses during the balance of 2013. We will continue to assess the effectiveness of our remediation efforts in connection with management's future evaluations of internal control over financial reporting.

Part II Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Brandywine Communications Technologies, LLC filed an action for patent infringement against HickoryTech Corporation on December 26, 2012, in United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. The Company filed responsive pleadings denying the charge. In May 2013, Brandywine then sought to stay the Minnesota action, pending Brandywine's motion to transfer the Minnesota action (together with approximately forty other defendants in multiple districts) into a Multi-District Litigation ("MDL") in Florida. That transfer motion was denied by the MDL Panel on August 8, 2013. The stay in the Minnesota action was then lifted, and discovery is proceeding. The litigation remains at a very preliminary stage. Although the Company continues to deny any wrongdoing, at this time the Company cannot predict the outcome of the matter.

Other than routine litigation incidental to our business and those previously disclosed in the December 31, 2012 Form 10-K, there are no pending material legal proceedings to which we are a party or to which any of our property is subject.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in Item 1A, "Risk Factors," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012.

32

Table of Contents

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

On August 18, 2011, we announced that our Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase plan to repurchase up to \$3,000,000 of our common stock with no specified expiration date. During the first six months of 2013, we acquired and retired 124,285 common shares for \$1,275,000 in block transactions handled through market makers. There was no stock repurchase activity during the three months ended September 30, 2013.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibit Listing

Exhibit Number Description

Amendment Regarding Amendments to Loan Documents, dated as of October 30, 2013, by and among Hickory
10.1 Tech Corporation, the Lenders who are or may become party to this Agreement, and CoBank, ACB, as
Administrative Agent for the Lenders.

31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906
of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of
the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

101.INSXBRL Instance Document

101.SCHXBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document

101.CALXBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document

101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

101.LABXBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document

101.PREXBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

33

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: November 5, 2013 HICKORY TECH
CORPORATION

By: /s/ John W.
Finke
John W. Finke,
President and
Chief Executive
Officer

By: /s/ David A.
Christensen
David A.
Christensen,
Senior Vice
President and
Chief Financial
Officer