

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY MAY 10, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marron at 7:03 PM. Those in attendance included: Chairman Marron, Vice-Chairman Boulanger, Member Freeman, City Manager Latham, L & P Director Cook and Electric Supervisor George Stram. Members of the public in attendance included: Neil Nickolitis.

MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Boulanger made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10th meeting. Seconded by Board Member Freeman. All voted aye; motion approved.

REPORTS

Director Cook first gave an update on the status of the fiber installation. The splicing of the 144 fiber cable is taking three days to complete rather than the projected one day. We are awaiting permits from CSX and IDOT for fiber crossings. Still, we are at about 80% of completion for Phase I installation.

Director Cook then gave an update concerning service and content. The service contracts for phone and video with EchoStar are in the hands of the attorneys. The contracts should be brought before Council at their next meeting. He also informed the Telecomm Board that it needs to make programming decisions to be given to Council. Consequently Director Cook distributed a listing of all channels available for purchase.

Bob Freeman asked about the pricing structure and if we will carry as much programming as Charter and the satellite providers. Director Cook believes that the offerings will be similar. City Manager Latham would like to see The Weather Channel and Game Show Network moved to the most basic package. Bob Freeman would like to see all of the religious programming channels offered in the basic package. Board Member Freeman made a motion to add The Game Show Network, The Weather Channel, TBN and EWTN to the basic line-up. Vice-Chairman Boulanger seconded. All voted aye; motion carried.

The next update concerned the status of the head-end. Notice of Municipal Lettings for head-end construction went out last week. At a pre-bid meeting, only Plocher Construction attended. Director Cook passed on that Southwestern Construction Services called him earlier today and asked several general questions about the project. Vice-Chairman Boulanger asked about the value of the contract, Director Cook replied that is about \$370,000. Board Member Freeman stated that he thinks we need more than one bidder on the project before going to Council. Director Cook will follow-up and attempt to find more bidders.

The final report covered the splicing status. Director Cook stated that the splicer for Janssen has only one year of splicing experience. City employee Adam Vickery has eight years of splicing experience. Adam says that he can splice a 144 fiber cable in one day, rather than the three days that it's taking now. Having Adam do the splicing would result in a savings of \$2,500. The only hang-up is that we don't presently have a splicing trailer, which would cost about \$25,000. Seeking council approval for the trailer purchase would take too long to realize any savings. Consequently, Director Cook would like to rent a splicing trailer from Nesco for one or two months while the new trailer is ordered and delivered. City Manager Latham stated that if the trailer is leased/purchased then the whole bidding/purchasing process can be avoided. The final decision was that Director Cook will rent a splicing trailer.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Cook stated that HCS has obtained a booth at this year's county fair, similar to last year's booth. Dan will do a PowerPoint presentation about the fiber system at the fair. City Manager Latham stated that Dan Kennedy with Fidelity might have portable set-up showing fiber content. Director Cook will also put together a content catalog and a timeline for Phase II construction.

The next item of discussion was in regards to the Highland News-Leader. Director Cook was interviewed today by the News-Leader. Dan related that the paper is asking very pointed questions about the project. For example, why is the City hiring a fiber supervisor before finding a service provider? Curt Libra seems to be the person responsible for the questions. Dan informed the paper that the hiring process will be drawn out enough that the provider will be chosen by the time the supervisor is hired.

The final order of business was in regards to Bob Freeman's replacement on the board. Director Cook asked Mayor Michaelis about an appointee to replace Bob Freeman on the Board. The Mayor directed Dan to ask the Board about a replacement. Bob Freeman would like to see someone with marketing experience. The Board will consider the question in time for discussion at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Telecomm Advisory Board will be Tuesday, July 12th at 7:00 PM.

Board Member Freeman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Boulanger. All vote aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.