

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Marron at 7:00 PM. Others in attendance were Vice-Chairman Jon Boulanger, Board member Bob Freeman, City Manager Mark Latham, Light & Power Director George Stram, and City Attorney John Long.

MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Boulanger made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2009 Telecomm Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Freeman. All voted aye. Motion carried.

REPORTS

The first item for discussion was Scott Bowles' written progress report. During the course of discussion Mark Latham gave a summary of the grant applications submitted in behalf of the City. Spectrum Engineering's polling methods were also discussed. Mark informed the committee that Scott would be in town next week to begin walking the Phase 1 construction route. Mark has also requested a project schedule from Scott.

Along the same lines, Bob Freeman inquired as to the timeline for actual fiber construction. Mark replied that Phase 1 is planned to be done by January 1 of next year. Phase 1 is intended to connect all city buildings, the schools, and downtown businesses. The main fiber route will come down Route 40, then up Route 143, then across Troxler to Route 160. From there it will continue down Route 160, past the hospital, to the Lindenthal campus. The final leg will run down Broadway to Washington, and then back to Route 40. Contractors will construct Phase 1, with most of the fiber being aerial. On a final note, Mark informed council that the school district has offered office space in the old Jakel building in exchange for fiber services.

Mark gave a very brief update on the project financing, telling the committee that he trying to arrange a teleconference with the bond attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee discussed the planned trip to Crawfordsville, Indiana. Mark had available four dates for the visit; August 25th, September 1st, September 3rd, and September 4th. After group discussion it was tentatively agreed to visit Crawfordsville on September 1st. Those making firm commitments to go were Mark Latham, George Stram, George Marron and Jon Boulanger. Bob asked if any city council members should be invited. It was then decided to invite any councilperson that wished to go, as long as fewer than three wished to do so. As pointed out by City Attorney Long the Open Meetings Act precludes a quorum of council members being present. Jon Boulanger volunteered to supply transportation for the trip.

George Marron brought up the subject of possible content providers, with Homotel and Alhambra Phone being possibilities. Scott Bowles is evaluating the possibility of partnering with content providers. Mark mentioned that Crawfordsville

does not offer telephone service but does have their own video head-in. Mark also mentioned the delicacy of our bond status as related to possible partnerships. John Long had a discussion with Troy Fodor, who is the legal counsel for the IMEA. Troy said that of the three bundled services, the most complex part is telephone service. The FCC would require the city to obtain a license in order to provide phone service and doing so is a very difficult thing.

Committee then discussed fiber staffing issues. George Marron said that he has been collecting sales literature from both Charter and Dish Network. He wonders as to the need for a marketing position for the FTTP. Bob Freeman asked if the city is staffing a marketing position. Mark outlined his prediction for the administrative staffing flowchart. He foresees a single Director overseeing both the electric department and fiber department. Under the Director will an operations manager for each department. Finally, a marketing position will serve both divisions.

Bob Freeman asked if committee meetings are covered under the Open Meetings Act, as it would apply to personnel decisions. Mark replied that personnel matters are discussed by city council in executive session. The telecomm commission will be heavily involved in personnel decisions. They will help to narrow the field of candidates and give input into final hiring decisions. Bob Freeman wondered as to whether council will accept the range of salaries that will be commanded by FTTP staff in comparison to other city positions. Group consensus seems to be that it is crucial to the project's success that a marketing position is filled immediately.

It is hoped that for the next meeting, September 14th, that committee will have a project schedule and a list of available job openings. On a final note, John Long asked that while in Crawfordsville, the committee inquire as to how programming decisions are made.

Bob Freeman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Jon Boulanger. All voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.