

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marron at 7:00 PM. Those in attendance were Chairman Marron, Board member Bob Freeman, City Manager Mark Latham, Light & Power Director George Stram, City Attorney John Long, and one member of the public.

MINUTES

Board Member Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting of the Telecomm Advisory Board. The motion was approved.

REPORTS

Mark gave an update concerning Scott Bowles' reports. The RFP's for material and construction will go out on November 16th and 30th, respectively. Spectrum Engineering will field the RFP's from all vendors. All proposals will be due by November 30th. It's hoped that by the next Board meeting, the board will have recommendations ready to be made to City Council.

Mark's next report item covered system programming decisions. Scott and Mark plan to have the Notice of Municipal Letting approved by Council in early December. The hope being that by the December 14th meeting of the Telecomm Board, board will be able to review and advise Council on programming choices.

Mark then passed on the unfortunate news that the City received no federal SmartGrid funds. There is still the possibility that the City will receive the BTOP grant for rural broadband improvements. As a result the sale of the FTTP bonds has been delayed until more is known of the BTOP grant. Currently, the bond sale is scheduled for mid to late January.

On the staffing front the City has completed the interview process for nine applicants for the position of fiber lineman. A second phase of interviewing will consist of testing the climbing ability of four finalists at the Ameren training facility in Decatur. It's hoped to have everyone hired by the end of this year.

The fiber splicer interviews will begin sometime after the linemen jobs are filled. On a related note, Graybar brought in samples of the equipment that will be used to splice the fiber. The existing linemen were given the opportunity to have some brief hands-on training using the equipment.

November 13th is the final day to accept resumes for the IT Manager position. Council approval is still needed for the positions of Fiber Operations Manager and Marketing Director.

NEW BUSINESS

The first order of new business was to approve the 2010 meeting dates for the Telecomm Board. Board Member Freeman made a motion to approve the dates; seconded by Chairman Marron. All voted aye, motion approved.

The next item of discussion covered possible business locations for the FTTP storefront. Mark Latham and Scott Bowles have identified four possible locations for the FTTP building. The possibilities are; the Hal Kloss building, the Dwight Rutz property, the school district administration building and the old Toner Technology property on Highland Road. Two of the buildings are over 18,000 square feet in size making them rather too large for our needs. The other two buildings are around 4,000 square feet, which would be more appropriate.

There followed a brief discussion of the pros and cons of each site. The Toner Technology property, while it is a spacious 1.4 acres in size would need the construction of a new building to house electronics. The Dwight Rutz property would require the additional purchase of property from Trouw Nutrition in order to have room for the antenna farm. The school admin building has no room for antennae or for a business storefront. It only has space available for the system's electronics.

Bob Freeman enquired about the property at the northwest corner of the intersection of Troxler and Route 160. Bob feels that the school would have no objection to using that property for this purpose. He also feels that the school would be very willing to trade the property in exchange for FTTP service. Mark passed on that the City already owns a part of that property. Chairman Marron wondered if the site would be adequate for the system storefront. Consensus was that the site is a very attractive possibility. Mark said that he will try to schedule a meeting with the school superintendent to discuss the property.

Both George Marron and Bob Freeman than asked about the Rutz property west of the city utility building, that presently houses Luitjohan Flooring. Mark expressed surprise that Dwight never mentioned that property to the City.

The board also briefly discussed expanding the existing city utility building to house the FTTP system. Mark replied that the site is already very constrained space wise and that the expansion needed for the FTTP would be very difficult to do.

The next meeting of the Telecomm Board is scheduled for December 14th.

Bob Freeman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by George Marron. All voted aye; meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.