

REPORT OF REGULAR SESSION
CITY OF HIGHLAND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday – October 11, 2021

7:00 pm

ROLL CALL: Members present - Sharon Rusteberg and Chairman George Marron

Additional Attendees - Light and Power Director Dan Cook, Technology & Innovation Director Angela Imming, Minutes Taker Terri Hoffmann

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

MINUTES:

- A. Minutes of the August 9, 2021 regular session of the Telecommunications Advisory Board were approved.

PUBLIC FORUM: Due to technical difficulties, public monitoring of the meeting was unavailable. There were no emails received from the public in advance of the meeting or requests via the citizens' portal.

REPORTS:

- A. List of customer sign-ups, installs and other metrics – A current customer count of 2,647 was reported. Revenue was reported at 39.48%, lower than budgeted. The decrease is a result of the delay in effecting the planned increase to Voice products due to the urgency in completing the Victory TV conversion process, the loss of a small percentage of Video products due to customers that dropped 'tv services', and the purchase of a new bucket truck. Director Imming noted that a 15% drop in video products was expected, and current figures reflect the decrease at only 8%. Additionally, Director Imming expects to have at least four months before the end of the fiscal year to increase revenue by applying the increased voice rates.
- B. Update on V-TV; construction – Currently 515 customers have been converted to Victory TV leaving a balance of 387. Director Imming projects that in the remaining weeks before the deadline, HCS will need to convert 12 customers daily. A total stream count of 1,400 was reported, averaging more per customer than anticipated.
Questions were raised as to whether or not funds from ARPA (The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) 'qualify' to be used for future construction/build-out of fiber and whether or not construction might commence in early February or March of 2022.
Director Imming asked the board for feedback from the public regarding Victory TV and comments reported were very positive. Tentative plans were made to provide access to Victory TV via a test account to those board members currently without access, in order to have first-hand experience with it and field questions they may encounter from the public. Noted was the fact that 'streaming' is the way tv service is or will soon be provided industry-wide.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.