

Decorah Telecommunications Utility Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2017 – 5:30pm
Decorah Council Chambers

Minutes

Members attending:

Paul Mattson
Lydia Anderson
Jarrad Walter
Bruce Butters

Others in attendance:

Chopper Albert
Phil Iverson – Decorah Fast Fiber
Paul Scott – Decorah Fast Fiber

Members absent

Anna Norris

Discussion on feasibility study

The commission discussed the proposed format to make their final report and recommendation to the city council.

Norris previously sent information for the commission to consider and they spent time reviewing the talking points. Her proposed key elements included:

- 1. We would like to re-examine the take rate. The average take rate for Internet utility services in Iowa is around 50%. In northern Iowa, it is 70%. New Hampton's predicted take rate is 70%. Waverly's predicted take rate over 10 years is 75%. In Osage, 70% of their electric customers also subscribe to Internet. There are also many questions about the validity of the Likert scale that was used to calculate our predicted take rate.*
- 2. We would like to re-examine the FTE needs of the utility. If we are able to move forward with 7 FTEs, we will save \$5 million in salary costs.*
- 3. We would like to examine Smart Grid Advanced Metering. Perhaps our existing utilities can help offset our costs through a monthly subscription fee.*
- 4. We would like to examine other video options, including Acentek's current offerings. Video is an expensive but necessary component of what we might offer the community.*
- 5. We would like to examine whether or not it is feasible for individuals to pay for "the last mile" connecting them to the Metronet.*
- 6. Additional discussion is needed between Metronet and the commission. We may find ways to work together that have not been fully explored yet.*

Bird also noted that there should be some conversation with financial advisors for the city.

The commission directed Walter to write the recommendation white paper to the council and send back for edit and feedback. The commission will present the recommendations to the council on Monday, October 16, 2017.

Approval of minutes

a. September 26, 2017

Motion by Butters and second by Walter to table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19pm with motion and second by Walter and Butters respectively.

Respectfully submitted

