

**City of Decorah Utility Committee meeting minutes
Monday, July 2, 2018 – 5:00pm**

The City of Decorah Utility Committee met on Monday, July 2, 2018 at 5:00pm. Chair Andy Carlson called the meeting to order, Dan Bellrichard, Johanna Bergan, and Randy Schissel were in attendance.

Others in attendance included Mayor Lorraine Borowski, City Manager Chad Bird, IT Director Chopper Albert, Telecommunications Utility Commission Members Paul Mattson, Jarrad Walter, and Bruce Butters.

Agenda

Discussion and update from Telecommunications Utility Board of Trustees

Walter provided a brief overview of the work of the commission. He discussed the recent proposals the commission has solicited and reviewed for a phase II assessment of the community's fiber and telecommunications needs. Walter noted two key aspects the commission is interested in studying further; a more comprehensive survey of the community through a pledge-card program and the development of a business plan or model that can then be shopped on the open bond market.

The commission is recommending the city hire CCG and Doug Dawson to complete the studies. Walter noted CCG had a perceived better understanding of the telco industry.

Walter briefly reviewed the previous comprehensive study and phone survey and noted the commission believes CCG could enhance the work of the initial study. He also noted other cities are seeing higher take-rates than those projected by the initial study.

Carlson asked about the fast fiber fundraising and conversation entailed a review of their funds held in trust. It was noted that if the city moves to a bond referendum, funds may be needed for a referendum campaign.

Mattson noted that sometime has passed and the community situation may have changed. There may also be some build-out assumptions that may have changed.

Bellrichard asked about the conceptual build-out and whether the commission is looking at a partial or full build-out.

Bergan asked about other city's build-out programs. Chopper spoke about some others and noted information from Independence, Osage, and Waverly.

Schissel noted that in Vinton there needed to be a public / private partnership to get their project started.

Butters commented on the original study and noted this would be a good step and process to refine data and information.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.
Respectfully submitted,

