

Decorah Telecommunications Utility Board Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2019 – 5:30pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Minutes

Members attending:

Anna Norris
Bruce Butters
Jarrad Walter
Paul Mattson
Lydia Anderson

Others in attendance:

Chopper Albert
Phil Iverson
Paul Scott
Chad Bird
Chip Baltimore

Discussion on feasibility report

There was general discussion regarding the final report. The MetroNet impact was discussed and Albert shared that while an important infrastructure, the major financial impact is not as strong as most would assume. The final report did not include the prospect of shared fiber with the MetroNet.

Albert noted the final study is ready for final comments and release. Comments and inputs from this meeting will be reflected in the report if germane to data.

The concept of joint partnerships with current ISP providers was discussed. Albert noted that in initial conversations he has had with some of the area providers is that they would want the city to build the infrastructure and they would operate the system and provide service. The provider would lease the network back from the city. In discussions, it was questioned why the city would do this as it appears building the system out is the most expensive part of the process.

The board noted they are not interested in a partnership that ultimately provides for the same level of services as may be found in the existing market place, noting that any potential partnership should be highly favorable to the market place and city residents.

Butters led a discussion on the amount of external funding may be required to change the network's viability.

**Motion by Butters and second by Mattson to acknowledge the two in-depth feasibility reports and given the economic conditions and analysis the FTTP network is not feasible at this time.
In further discussion, Norris noted there is simply no funding and partnerships don't seem very viable.
Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.**

Butters and Walter expressed sincere thanks to the Decorah Fast Fiber group for their support and partnership over the last several years.

There was some discussion on how to craft a message to the general public and a briefing with the city council. The commission noted they would like to make a presentation to the city council on Monday, March 4. As part of the discussion with council, the commission will provide some recommendations one being how to work with existing utilities to create more favorable conditions for fiber and the other to keep the telecommunications utility in place for future possibilities.

Approval of minutes

a) January 9, 2019

**Motion by Butters and second by Norris to approve the minutes from January 9, 2019 with the corrections of the spelling of Bruce Butter's name.
No further discussion.
Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.**

Adjourn

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31pm with motion and second by Butters and Norris respectively.

Respectfully submitted

