

Decorah Telecommunications Utility Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 – 5:00pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Minutes

Members attending:

Anna Norris
Bruce Butters
Jarrad Walter
Paul Mattson

Others in attendance:

Chopper Albert
Peter Sharp
Paul Scott
Chad Bird
Patsy Martinson
Jim Fritz

Absent:

Lydia Andersen

Discussion and review of draft feasibility report

Doug Dawson from CCG was available via conference call. Dawson provided an overview of the final draft report. The commission then engaged in questions and discussion about the report.

Buttars asked about the geographic areas outside the current corporate limits and if they could be served or if they were included in the analysis. Bird noted that they are not include and he and Albert noted that services may extend outside the corporate limits if there is existing infrastructure, but state law forbid construction and extension of services outside a service territory.

Norris asked questions about aerial fiber construction versus burial / underground construction. It was noted that while direct bury is more desirable it is more expensive and will be more expensive in Decorah because of the rock, bluffs, and Karst topography.

There was discussion about having an electric utility partner and how that could help spread the risks and costs. It was noted this was what is helping other cities achieve success.

Dawson encouraged the commission to continue the pledge card collection noting that it will only continue to help the cause.

The financial aspects of the study were discussed, and the ultimate conclusion is that the local full fiber network build is too risky without partnerships. There was general conversation about the Decorah MetroNet and other possible partnership. Albert discussed his conversations with several local providers and ISPs and with local utility providers. He noted there is receptiveness to engaging in partnership conversations.

The commission wanted to discuss and think on the report, Dawson and Albert will finalize the report and amend some minor items based on this conversation.

Update and possible action on community survey and pledge card program content

Given the discussion above, there was no further conversation on this item at this time.

Approval of minutes

a) *December 10, 2018*

Motion by Buttars and second by Mattson to approve the minutes from December 10, 2018 with the correction of the spelling of Peter Sharp's name.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm with motion and second by Butters and Norris respectively.

Respectfully submitted

