

Decorah Telecommunications Utility Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – 5:30pm
City Hall Council Chambers and Electronically

Electronic meeting pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8 – In circumstances where such a meeting is impossible or impractical due to concerns about COVID-19 and social distancing for the safety of Council members and the public.

In support of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' proclamation declaring a State of Public Health Disaster Emergency the Decorah City Hall had limited seating to remain under 50% capacity at required social distancing protocol during the Wednesday, January 27, 2021 Telecommunication Utility Board meeting. Access to the Chambers was limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. However, the meeting was made available electronically. The public was able to hear and participate in the Board meeting by calling:

Minutes

Members attending:

Paul Mattson
Jarrad Walter
Lydia Andersen
Paul Scott
One seat remains vacant

Others in attendance:

Chopper Albert
Chad Bird
City Council member Ross Hadley

Discussion and possible action on a proposal for a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) utility project

Albert reviewed the submitted proposal from AcenTek for a public / private fiber to the premise partnership. There was discussion from the board about the proposal and the perceived gap in funding / profitability for the full community build out.

In general discussion, the board asked how much the city might be able to contribute to such a full build out. There was also discussion about possible Decorah MetroNet participation and financial contributions. Albert noted an illustration he built into the model. Bird cautioned any MetroNet contribution should be discussed with the MetroNet board before advancing the conversation.

Bird raised the question about partnering with the municipal electric utility efforts as perhaps the fiber and electric propositions could leverage and support each other. There was no interest in this option from the board.

There was discussion about ask AcenTek to eliminate the revenue sharing portion, perhaps for the first six years, as a way to help fund the program and get it off the ground. Albert said he would work on some financial illustrations and options.

There was discussion about trying to develop about \$500,000 in city cash or partnership to get the effort started and to secure better financial footing.

The board directed staff to draft some options as discussed and to bring them back for discussion before sending to the partner.

Approval of minutes

a. October 6, 2020

Motion by Mattson and second by Walter to approve the minutes from October 6, 2020 meeting.

No further discussion.

Roll call vote; motion carried unanimously.

Other business

There was no other business.

Adjourn

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm with motion and second by Scott and Andersen respectively.

Respectfully submitted

