



MINUTES

FIBER OPTICS RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 2016 AT 1:00 P.M.

CASTLE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER - 2 CASTLE VALLEY DRIVE

Committee Members Present : Chairperson Drogin, Pam Gibson, Colleen Thompson and Bob Lipman.

Others Present: Mayor Erley and Ron Drake.

Recorder: Jocelyn Buck

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Drogin called meeting to order at 1PM

1. Correspondence-None
2. Administrative Matters & Procedures-None

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Fiber Optics proposal update from Michael Giles, Utah General Manager for Frontier Communications.

Drogin introduced Mike Giles- Frontier Communications General Manager for Utah and Steve Long- Frontier Communications Technical Engineer Manager.

Mike Giles outlined his regional responsibilities.

Drogin explained that the forming of the Committee was to look into the internet options that may come available to for both residents and the Town building. The potential options for future consideration are River Canyon Wireless (fixed wireless) and Frontier's fiber optics service. She explained the necessity for internet service in our community and that we need to pick the most reliable service available.

Steve Long emphasized the importance of diversification basically having both fixed wireless and fiber optics service for optimal coverage.

Bob Lipman stated as a Committee we are not making the decisions for the community we are collecting information. Steve Long explained currently the radio signal that serves our area has been upgraded twice in the last couple years but the demand has tripled and the service has not been able to keep up with demand. The Fiber optics system would be the next step. The plan would be to increase the size of the radio band and using fiber optics technology it would increase speed and service. Frontier would run fiber down from the Rim Shadow Office to Shafer and have a "Short loop" or "D-slam" set up at Shafer which would extend service to the east or top end of the Valley. There would also be the option to further extend to Castleton and possibly Professor Valley.

Drogin asked if Frontier's Fiber Optics service in Castle Valley was a certainty.

Giles commented that Castle Valley is his number one priority in Utah for the new Fiber optics funding. And it is important for Frontier to get house count numbers to substantiate Castle Valley's chances of getting funding for this project. Corporate Frontier needs these specific statistics on house counts and potential lot developments in order to decide where the funds are to be allocated.

Erley emphasized that bringing Fiber optics will potentially cause Castle Valley development to boom because so many people need internet for work and he asked what we could provide to help our case to get Fiber Optics?

Giles requested a house count and potential development statistics.

Pam Gibson stated she had read information that funding from the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) had already been dispersed to Frontier in the amount of 2.5 million dollars for Utah.

Long explained that the FCC sent Frontier Utah maps of census blocks that may qualify for funding. Then Frontier has to do household counts and costs per household and potentials in order to get the actual funding.

Gibson asked who, Frontier or the FCC makes the final decision.

Long explained that Frontier provides the data and makes the "case" for funding and then the FCC makes the final decision. The overall goal is to serve the maximum number of people per fiber optics project overall cost. Lipman stated the importance of counting potential "build out" and that the service would need to leave room for future expansion.

Long explained Frontier has a mandated service from the FCC to provide ten Mbps down and one up. Colleen Thompson asked how easy will it be to upgrade service in the future and how resilient will Fiber optics be? Lipman asked for a comparison between the service Royce was offering and Fiber optics. Long stated he was not comfortable to compare wireless verses fiber optics. Thompson said she has been doing speed tests throughout the Valley and has seen a lot of variation. She is interested in helping people get the most out of their service by working around some problems within houses that are not specifically Frontier issues.

Long stated that congestion is affecting service but that there are also physical problems on a house by house level. Thompson stated that there are so many variables in houses including wiring. Erley asked Frontier for a list of things with in homes that might be affecting service. Long recommended upgrading house wiring from Cat5 to CAT6E speed wire to get the benefit of maximum internet speed.

Buck asked what will be the customer's cost for Fiber Optics. Giles stated that there would be no extra cost to customer's existing cost unless you were requesting an upgrade to faster speeds.

Buck emphasized that Castle Valley residents are paying for the maximum speed available but we are getting less that 70% of the speed at that pricing tier.

Long stated that with the faster speeds made available with Fiber optics there will be different tiered pricing. Gibson asked again for an explanation on what was holding up the decision making process. Giles stated for him we are the number one priority but the final decision would go through Frontier Corporate. Gibson asked if he was saying there is a possibility we may not get Fiber Optics at all. Giles reaffirmed that Castle Valley customer numbers look good but Frontier Corporate still makes the decision. And that the FCC funding is a drop in the bucket compared to the actual total costs of bringing Fiber Optics to Castle Valley. Long emphasized how important it is to get the data necessary to present to Frontier and help them make it work here. Giles added he hopes to have some concrete decision by the end of the year. And a letter of support from the committee and / or the Mayor would help.

Lipman asked what can Frontier offer customers in response to several residents signing up with Royce. He wanted Frontier to know they are actively losing customers. Long stated he is so confident in the quality and speed of their product that customers will probably come back to Frontier.

Erley stated that we could get some targeted letters from Colin Fryer with the Utah Travel Council, Sheriff Office and Search and Rescue to help build our case of how important internet service is in our area. Giles stated that would be very good support.

Buck asked for a timeline on the decision making process. Giles stated this is a 2017 Plan and hopefully the decision will be made soon. Erley stated our community needs reliable service and that we need to take a leap of faith and provide Frontier with the information they need to make a good case for Castle Valley getting Fiber optics. Both Giles and Long thanked the Committee for the opportunity to meet. Drogin thanked Giles and Long for their information and coming to Castle Valley.

Chairperson Drogin adjourned meeting at 2:26PM

Approved:



Alice Drogin, Committee Chair

Date:

Attested:



Jocelyn Buck, Town Clerk

Date: