

**CITY OF CONDON**  
**Fiber Committee Notes**  
**Thursday, July 21, 2016, 4 p.m.**  
**City Hall Upstairs – Council Chambers**

**Present:** Councilors Jan Stinchfield & Donald Jamieson, Chief Dale Scobert, Elizabeth Farrar, Rita Rattray & CA Kathryn Greiner; Guests: Chris Perry, Wheeler County Judge/FT Chair; Sandy McKay, Gilliam SWCD; Mac Stinchfield, The Times-Journal; Peter Mitchell, Port of Arlington; Alan Cunningham, Arlington TV Cooperative; Mike Cronk, Condon resident/councilor; Rachel Weinstein, Gilliam County Community & Economic Development Director

Councilor Jan Stinchfield opened the meeting at 4:03.

Farrar said that the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) is flexible and will allow public private companies to respond that meets the goals of the city's strategic plan. She asked that we add to it to work with cell companies to improve the service in our area. Rattray and Councilor Stinchfield agreed incorporate the cell phone coverage. Farrar also added that with the cell phone information it may entice some of those companies to "chip in" funds toward the project. Councilor Stinchfield asked for CA Greiner to forward the cell change request to the city's telecom attorney and asked it would be done by August 3 council meeting. CA Greiner said that the full RFP took just three days so she did not see any problem with the timeline. She will email it to the committee members with the change prior to the council meeting August 3.

The committee discussed the offer of Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer at the July 13 meeting and the need to a written response. Councilor Jamieson asked CA Greiner if the city's telecom attorney Nancy Werner had reviewed the offer. She said that the attorney told her that the offer was not clear and a person that didn't have any history with this project would not know what it meant. Councilor Stinchfield said that the transport fees are a start and to not count FT out from responding to the RFP. Farrar said that the response does not preclude the city from working with the city, and hoped FT would respond to the RFP. She added that the RFP will have in writing the offers that will be clear to review. Judge Perry stated that the only agreement in place was with Sherman County and FT for the fiber line and offered to share their agreement with the committee. Perry added that this was between Condon and Gilliam County and not at the FT level at this time. Farrar read a portion of a response to Judge Shaffer and CA Greiner will complete it and have it for the City Council to approve as a response at the August 3 meeting.

Councilor Stinchfield said that recently she and CA Greiner met with Ken Gross of Home Telephone and heard that they would offer lower rates for fiber to the home for a 5 year period for \$750,000. They communicated to Gross that they did not think the term or amount of money was the best use of public funds, then were given current rates of Home Telephone for high speed and where told the rates could be negotiated with different amounts of a buy-down. The committee agreed that these issues and offers could be given in the RFP process.

Farrar stated that for public education and communication she would draft a "fact sheet" that would include information on the Condon Chamber of Commerce survey regarding broadband and a Frequently Asked Questions section. CA Greiner said that she has scheduled a class with the Gilliam County Library for the public to learn how to download books on Kindles from their library-to-go system August 17, 6 p.m. She is also working with two different instructors for an Ipad class for seniors and other adult learners at the library. She is also working with the Small Business Development Center that is coming to Condon to possibly provide other classes using Gilliam County Library's high speed broadband. Dates and times for the other classes have not been set at this time.

McKay asked who paid for the fiber connection at the library and was told the City of Condon.

Cunningham said that the Arlington TV Cooperative (ATVC) received the funds to purchase their building in Arlington that day and have received all the necessary paperwork to proceed on their project in Arlington. He said that the service would be \$160 for HD TV, telephone and broadband and they could be purchased separately. Chief Scobert asked how ATVC received public input with Cunningham replying it was by a survey two years ago. ATVC does not have a date that they will deploy the system, but are optimistic by the end of 2016. They anticipate a 60% take-up rate and for customers in the first six months do not anticipate any set up charges.

Mitchell gave the committee a handout on the electronic equipment that will be used by ATVC and advocated for using FT's system.

It was agreed by committee members that the cost and access to the middle mile by all entities was important. Councilor Stinchfield pointed out that although Condon did not pose a large population it appeared most companies were using it as a stepping stone to go south.

CA Greiner asked if Judge Perry had any insight to FT decision to allow other entities could contribute to the middle mile system that is to be discussed at their July 28 meeting. Judge Perry stated that he anticipated legal counsel to assist if this decision could be made with their current organizational structure, but as far as he knew the group had not contracted anyone to get a legal opinion at this time. Judge Perry stressed the importance of the fiber line in Wheeler County to be a cross state and not a dead end line. He also noted the importance of FT wireless system to service areas of Wheeler County that may never see fiber connections.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.