

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2019

The Information Systems Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Amy Michael at 6:08 P.M. Present were: Rob Kairis, Andrew Kluge, Bruce Ribelin, Paul Moskun, Scott Rainone, Matt Harper and Joe Bica. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Director of Public Service, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Police Chief Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Human Resources Director, Heather Richkowski; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Clifford Soudil of 434 Woodland Street, Ravenna, Ohio and Tim Calfee of 910 Murray Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Ms. Michael said she asked for the broadband issue on the agenda. She personally did not get to attend the luncheon the clerk, Andrew Kluge and Rob Kairis did. Mr. Kluge was very impressed with the Fairlawn Gig. They previously spoke about the broadband issue if it is beneficial for the City to host it.

Mr. Kluge said this is completely different and is very long term. They thought it was interesting how Fairlawn provided broadband as a utility. It was 300 megabytes per second for \$55.00 a month, available to the residents of Fairlawn and is a Fairlawn utility. They are doing really, really well. It was an interesting presentation. They were able to go inside the room where they were housing all of the equipment. They have about forty miles, about half of Fairlawn has access at this time.

Ms. Michael asked if this is something the City would even be able to consider.

Mr. Kluge said the cost is very high.

Mr. Kairis said it was around \$10 million. They borrowed the money.

Mr. Kluge said they made it absolutely clear they did not do this with any levy monies. That \$10 million was for forty some miles.

The clerk noted what was suggested was that as the roads are being opened up for other issues, to lay conduit as they go.

Mr. Rainone asked if there is any margin.

Mr. Kairis said the cost was about \$160,000.00 a month and they are bringing in about \$200,000.00. The loan isn't paid with that money; it's taken out of their General Fund.

Mr. Kluge said they are using those funds to put back into the program.

Mr. Kairis said there is a lot of infrastructure. The 5G is fifth generation cellular service which is on the horizon, probably next month. The broadband initiative is a new infrastructure. If they consider it, they are not considering it for next year or two years. Think about when they started thinking about the whole idea of providing water service to residents in the City or building roads. This is the new infrastructure, if the City would want to build it. The advantage is that the City would have the control. For example, he has broadband service to his house through AT&T. But it's 25 megabytes. It costs less at about \$50.00 per month with a discount but you get 300 megabytes per second. That's six times the speed.

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Mr. Kairis went on to say that the other problem is, how many people are going to notice the difference in the speed?

Mr. Rainone said they have gigabyte speed through Spectrum that's \$104.00 a month. He thinks that it just keeps multiplying.

Mr. Soudil said AT&T put fiber in front of almost every house. Very few people are using it now. There is one gigabyte in front of his house. Only gamers or somebody like that would use something as quick as what they're talking about but in the future, who knows? That stuff is in front of the houses right now, as is Spectrum. The question is will the City be able to compete.

Mr. Kairis said he thinks they could because these companies are dialing down the speed intentionally. If you wanted to get 1,000 gigabytes to your home, you're going to pay a lot of money.

Mr. Soudil said he can get 1,000 and it's just over \$100.00 a month. He can cut it down to 300 and that's \$55.00-\$70.00 range. He's not saying not to do it.

Ms. Michael said she thought it was interesting and to talk about it some because it was talked about previously.

Mr. Kairis said that he thinks, they probably realize at some point if you look at numbers and comparisons, they emphasize customer service. That's the number one thing. If you look at consumer opinions, the large companies don't do well. He can give them some horror stories. That's one aspect to it.

Mr. Kluge said Fairlawn approached AT&T and Spectrum, etc., and bringing them to a roundtable to see if it was something they could do together and they were told NO so that's why Fairlawn stands alone.

Mr. Kairis noted that they have a little different history, too, in that they had horrible service in Fairlawn.

The clerk noted that the folks in Fairlawn said the big companies are now asking to come to the table but it's just too late.

Mr. Kluge noted that the folks in Fairlawn did say they will do tours so if anybody wants to go, they're happy to show it to you.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

**ATTEST:**

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Clerk of Council

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Amy Michael, Chairperson  
Information Systems Committee