

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee  
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.  
At the Village Center

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present at the meeting were the following Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee Members: Earl Hoellen, Andy Love, John Love, Susan Maguire and Paul Stewart.

Present at the meeting was City Council Advisor Alex Brown.

Present at the meeting were the following Staff Members: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; Troy Carmann, City Engineer; Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator; and Laura Smith, City Clerk.

Present at the meeting were CenturyLink representatives John McCormick and Charles Place.

Absent were Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart and Committee Members Dan Lynch and David Wyman.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

*Discussion with CenturyLink Representatives and Election Timeline*

Committee Member Stewart presented a survey that shows that 52% of American homes do not have or use a landline telephone.

Councilor Brown stated that he and Councilor Stewart had met with staff earlier in the week to discuss a timeline for the Committee. He suggested that the second meeting in May remain open for the Committee to discuss remaining tasks. He also presented a franchise agreement that was recently approved by City Council for the Zayo Group regarding use of the right-of-way for installation of fiber optics.

Councilor Brown asked if Mr. McCormick and Mr. Place could elaborate on the challenges and costs of burying overhead utility lines from CenturyLink's perspective.

Mr. McCormick replied that per state statute CenturyLink is not required to have a franchise agreement with the City. He continued that CenturyLink cannot be forced to

underground at their cost. CenturyLink would be unable to fund such a project based on current subscriber fees.

Councilor Brown asked if there are other communities that have pursued a similar goal.

Mr. Place said that he was not aware of any communities as a whole that were converted.

Board Member Hoellen asked if there were any regions in which CenturyLink funded conversion.

Mr. McCormick responded that there are some exceptions. For instance, there is an area in which CenturyLink funded conversion because of the lightrail. CenturyLink would also fund conversion if it was related to a road expansion.

Board Member Stewart said that he is also a resident of a community in Edwards, which recently converted its overhead lines.

Mr. Place said that he would look into the project.

Councilor Brown asked how many of CenturyLink's lines are currently located above-ground in the City.

Mr. Place replied that he would be able to provide an estimate the following week.

Board Member John Love asked if a reasonable estimate for costs could be provided.

Mr. Place responded that a reasonable estimate might be \$125 to \$150 per linear foot. There might also be an opportunity for joint trenching.

Board Member Maguire asked if CenturyLink would be able to coordinate with the other utilities to construct sections at the same time.

Mr. Place said that CenturyLink could try, but it would be difficult.

Councilor Brown asked if CenturyLink could use the same contractors as Xcel.

Mr. Place said that CenturyLink cannot use contractors that are not on its approved list.

Board Member Hoellen asked if CenturyLink removes overhead lines that are no longer in use.

Mr. McCormick replied that lines that are not in use are removed according to CenturyLink's procedures.

Councilor Brown asked if the installation of fiber optics would create any additional opportunities for CenturyLink.

Mr. McCormick said that CenturyLink would be open to discussing the possibility of installing fiber optics, but the construction costs are high.

Board Member John Love asked why construction costs are higher.

Mr. Place responded that other facilities would have to be changed in addition to the lines.

Board Member Maguire asked if there are any advantages to fiber optics.

Mr. Place said that it provides a higher speed for customers.

Board Member Stewart asked how many poles in the City belong to CenturyLink.

Mr. Place replied that most poles belong to Xcel.

Councilor Brown asked Ms. Smith to discuss the election timeline with the Committee.

Ms. Smith presented the regular municipal election calendar and a memo regarding fair campaign practices. She suggested submitting a resolution to City Council in August.

Board Member John Love asked what the process is for forming a citizens group.

Ms. Smith said that she would look into the process.

Board Member Andy Love stated that the Committee might want to consider installing a fiber optic backbone and leasing space on it.

Board Member John Love said that Comcast may consider utilizing a fiber optic system.

Board Member Andy Love stated that CenturyLink currently has a 24% residential penetration rate. He suggested that many homes in the City may not use CenturyLink for services.

Board Member Maguire asked if the costs for private property conversion along the arterials will increase as a result of CenturyLink's costs.

Public Works Director Goldie replied that he is not sure how many of CenturyLink's private lines are located above-ground.

Board Member Stewart asked if staff is able to provide a percentage for the number of private lines along arterials that are above-ground.

City Engineer Carman responded that approximately 40% of private lines are above-ground along Quincy.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.