

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee  
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.  
At the Village Center

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present at the meeting were the following Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee Members: John Love, Dan Lynch, Paul Stewart and David Wyman.

Present at the meeting were the following City Council Advisors: Mayor Pro Tem Russell Stewart and Councilor Alex Brown.

Present at the meeting were the following Staff Members: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; Troy Carmann, City Engineer; Marcus McAskin, Assistant City Attorney; Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Present at the meeting was also Centennial representative Dave Zelenok, Councilor Klasina VanderWerf and resident Jim Tarpey.

Absent were Committee Members Andy Love, Earl Hoellen and Susan Maguire.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

*Discussion with Dave Zelenok from the City of Centennial*

Councilor Brown introduced Mr. Zelenok and the members of the Committee.

Mr. Zelenok stated that the power supply to Centennial is split between Xcel Energy and the Intermountain Rural Electric Association. Prior to the installation of the fiber optics system, Centennial had not accessed the 1% undergrounding fund from Xcel for over 10 years, which resulted in a \$1 million fund.

Mr. Zelenok continued that the initial project for fiber optics was related to street lighting. Centennial found that there could be a significant reduction in cost from recapitalizing and converting to fiber optics.

Mr. Zelenok said that the installation of conduit costs approximately \$20 per linear foot, and there is little additional cost to install a secondary conduit at the same time. A 2-inch conduit can hold up to 24 fibers. Centennial formed an intergovernmental agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation to fund the installation of additional fibers. He

added that telecommunications providers are currently adding new sites using a fiber backbone installed by a third party. CenturyLink is also currently expanding its high speed internet service using fiber nodes throughout several regions in the state.

Mr. Zelenok stated that Google has entered several communities to install fiber to home networks that provide gigabit service at a lower price. Municipalities have been restricted from providing these services at cost without voter approval as a result of Senate Bill 05-152.

Mr. Zelenok continued that in 2013 Centennial voters approved a ballot initiative that allowed the City to indirectly provide services through its fiber optics system. Centennial has installed over 60 miles of fiber optics in the past three years. Longmont received approval from voters to access its fiber optics system, as well, but is a full service municipality that directly provides internet and phone services.

Board Member Wyman asked what would prevent Comcast from removing its services from the City if a fiber optics system was installed and space on it was leased.

Mr. Zelenok replied that there might be a section in the franchise agreement that would prevent this from occurring. He added that Centennial also requires contractors that are installing conduit through the right-of-way permit process to install a secondary conduit at the City's cost or at a reduced permit fee. Centennial is also planning to form a business plan that will explore how space on the fiber optics system will be utilized.

Mr. Zelenok added that if the City can find a way to connect to the "carrier hotel" costs could be significantly reduced.

Board Member Love asked if the power supply can be placed in the same conduit.

Mr. Zelenok replied that it depends if the fiber cable is non-conductive.

Board Member Love asked if there is any degradation as a result of having the power conduit located near the fiber optics conduit.

Mr. Zelenok said that he is not sure, but Xcel agreed to it.

Board Member Love asked how Centennial was able to force Xcel to bury its line.

Mr. McAskin said that the franchise agreement required it.

Mr. Zelenok added that the City may be able to force CenturyLink underground at its expense if approached with a franchise agreement to provide content over phone lines. He added that Centennial might approach CenturyLink to connect to its node system.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.