

Minutes of the Utility Line Undergrounding Study Committee  
Of the City of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado  
Held on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.  
At the Village Center

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

Present at the meeting were the following staff members: Jay Goldie, Public Works Director; and Emily Kropf, Special Projects Coordinator.

Absent were Councilor Earl Hoellen and Committee Members John Love, Susan Maguire and Russell Stewart.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

*Pinpoint Services*

Ms. Karen Elmont with Pinpoint Services stated that her company had not submitted a response to the Request for Information for Improved Broadband Communications but is interested in providing services to the City. Pinpoint started as a rural telephone company and now primarily builds and manages towers for wireless providers. Pinpoint can provide consulting services for engineering, project management and turnkey design.

*Draft Ballot Language*

Committee Member Lynch presented the revised ballot language for the temporary tax increase. He stated that there is not a lot to change until the financial analysis is complete. He suggested revisiting the language in a few weeks.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked if it is possible to have an end date for the tax without specifying a year.

Committee Member Lynch said that per TABOR requirements, the tax for the first year must be listed. He suggested having a delayed project start.

Public Works Director Goldie suggested having the tax start in 2017 and using the Xcel 1% fund in 2016.

Open House Materials

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that he had read the comments from the community survey and found that they generally falls into one of three categories: residents already spend too much on taxes, open space acquisition is more important and more quantifiable numbers are needed before a vote can take place.

Committee Member Andy Love asked if the respondents can be considered a self-selected group.

Public Works Director Goldie said that the results of the survey may not be statistically valid. He suggested having a bond company conduct a poll in which residents are asked to identify their cost threshold.

Committee Member Wyman stated that individuals may support undergrounding but can change their minds based on the cost. He suggested limiting the cost range, which is currently \$11 million to \$17 million for the arterial roads and state highways.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown said that a representative from Zayo confirmed the fiber estimate, but staff is still waiting to hear from CenturyLink. He added that the City Manager had reached out to other communities to discuss working with Xcel.

Committee Member Tarpey asked if the City had received any responses.

Public Works Director Goldie replied that some communities are not able to discuss the matter due to ongoing litigation. He said that it may have to be addressed on a political level.

Committee Member Andy Love asked if the Committee has considered examining Boulder's model in which the City builds and maintains an electrical infrastructure.

Committee Member Tarpey stated that there may be a problem with valuation when acquiring the system, which could lead to a lawsuit.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown said that it can be challenging. He added that the City may be able to find a contractor who does not work with Xcel to prepare an estimate for the Quincy design in order to compare the total costs.

Public Works Director Goldie stated that it may take years before Xcel will let the City perform the work. He suggested presenting the numbers prepared by Xcel to the public and seeing if they are acceptable. If not, the Committee may need to decide which piece to focus on like the fiber network.

Committee Member Tarpey said that the fiber may be a starting point.

Public Works Director Goldie added that undergrounding will not be cheaper in the future. If residents do not approve a tax, the overhead lines may have to remain.

Committee Member Lynch stated that the project may have to be phased.

Public Works Director Goldie said that the City has only amassed \$800,000 in the 1% fund in the last 10 years. It would take 30 years to be able to bury the lines along Quincy alone.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown suggested including a poster for the open house in which residents are asked to identify which streets they would prefer to see buried.

Public Works Director Goldie recommended adding a poster in which residents are asked to identify their cost threshold. He continued that the overhead lines along the state highways may also be more expensive to bury than the estimate shows. Another poster could ask residents if they support the installation of fiber without undergrounding.

Committee Member Wyman stated that there may be more of a perceived value with fiber than undergrounding.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.