

**TOWN OF ASTATULA  
MAYOR AND TOWN  
SUMMARY MINUTES**



**COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MONDAY MARCH 1, 2021  
FIBER OPTIC GRANT**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Clerk Wells called the workshop to order at 5.06pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor joined the meeting at 5:12 pm.

**Members Present:**

Mitchell Mack, Mayor  
Stephen Cross  
Gayle Sikkema  
**Absent:**  
Kimberly Kobera  
Orita Issartel

**Also Present:**

Graham Wells, Town Clerk  
**Present Virtually:**  
Fred Fox, Grant Administrator  
Steve Elias P.E., Pennoni  
Jeff Purdy P.E., Pennoni

Further discussion on the grant application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant in the Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Application cycle.

Steve Elias and Jeff Purdy went over their what they had worked on from the last meeting which is detailed below from their report.

**Fixed Wireless Broadband Overview:**

- Background on fixed wireless discussed from GA December 2020 Report, frequency, license atrisk, 500 MHz, 2.4, 2.5, 3.5 HHZ, (Tv whitespace, unlicensed, education, CB Radio);

Table 3: Fixed Wireless Spectrum

| Spectrum                                | Frequency Band              |
|---|-----------------------------|
| TV White Space (TVWS)                   | 500 MHz                     |
| Unlicensed                              | 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz, and 5 GHz |
| Education Broadband Service (EBS)       | 2.5 GHz                     |
| Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) | 3.5 GHz                     |

- EBS and CBRS – T-Mobile biggest license holder for 5G network;
- Long distance capability (not like in-home limited wifi reach) and can see thru buildings/trees atGbps+, goes thru weather well, excellent performance;
- MM wave 5G can't see thru building but fast (Verizon);
- We will look at FCC database to see who owns frequencies locally;
- Has range of a few miles, so could cover whole Town if local towers have appropriate equipment;
- Cost effective solution, depends on who owns 3.5 and 2.5 GHz to see if they can be partner orpurchase from FCC, T-Mobile a potential partner;
- 1 antennae could cover whole Town.

**Concept Layout Plan:**

- Century link backbone paths on 561;
- Only 40-50% of Town could get service with fiber to home approach with \$5 million grant;
- Crown Castle is largest tower player nationally with long-haul fiber;
- Town is ok with fixed wireless being part of a hybrid plan to get most/all of Town covered, but have fiber to home first priority as a goal;
- LMI percentage in Town is anticipated only 50-60% of Town, fiber to home or other technology not likely funded with this grant as must be LMI area focused;
- Need to consider 6 months of service to LMI community, estimate the cost for application (on the order of (\$190,000.....800 homes x 6 months x \$40/month);
- Town likes strategy of installing 3" backbone conduits with 3 innerducts on backbone (48 and 561) to facilitate future competition via having conduit for a future internet service provider to use;
- Hybrid approach could be a combo fixed wireless and fiber backbone (3" conduit);
- Pending 300 new homes to have fiber to home, overall currently fiber to home likely in less than 5 homes (6 lots working with Opticaltel, 2<sup>nd</sup> developer not working with Opticaltel);
- If we run fiber on Madison, it is 1 block from Town Hall, existing community center on Delaware /park, water plant, etc. Can we run fiber there?
- Tennessee could be an east-west corridor to the cell tower (may need an easement).

**Other:**

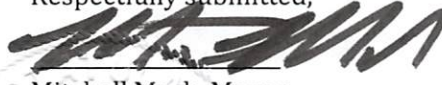
- Church pays about \$800/month for service;
- Century Link about 80% at least is DSL, not fiber;
- A community related facility (Town hall, community center, etc) is only eligible for grant funding if a Covid related activity is to be conducted at facility;
- What kind of tower is needed for fixed wireless? – a monopole works;
- Town will try to get on-site to see sign for who owns the towers and get info to Pennoni;
- Ring of fiber redundancy desirable so service does not go down with modern switchgear.

**Action:**

- Needs resumes from grant/project administrators from Town, good to reference any DEO grant experience on resume;
- 500 word write-up – Pennoni to work on after final concept plan discussed with Town;
- Draft concept map plan/cost to Town by Thursday 3/4/21 +/- (via email) as possible;
- Possible next meeting Friday 3/5/21 or Monday 3/8/21 (if needed) to discuss/approve concept plan to move forward with (email approval can work also).

Fred Fox, left the meeting at 5:55 pm. Steve Elias and Jeff Purdy continued discussion and left the meeting at 6:08 pm. Council continued discussion until the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk