



Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Communication Board Minutes Wednesday, August 11th , 2021

Meeting called by Gary Wenger
Type of meeting Monthly Meeting
Minutes taken by Carlye Hansen

Members Present: Gary Wenger,
Chairperson, Pat Dunne, Vice-Chairperson,
Carl Hamming
Staff: Carlye Hansen, Planning Department
Secretary

Others Present: Mike Grayson, Attorney at
Law

AGENDA TOPICS

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m., by Gary Wenger, Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes

A. February 3rd, 2021

*Motion was made by Carl Hamming to approve the minutes from February 3rd, 2021;
seconded by Pat Dunne. Motion passes 3-0.*

American Tower/Verizon Lease Agreement - Mike Grayson, Attorney at Law / Carl Hamming, ADLC Planning Director

Mr. Grayson is here today to discuss the negotiations that happened between he and American Tower/Verizon through Matt Brannon. The first offer was \$1000.00 a month. This was not even an option. Verizon, themselves, then took over negotiations themselves. We told them that we would take no less than what we are getting from AT&T in our last lease agreement with them. They then came back with an offer of \$2500.00 a month vs the \$2000.00 per year we are currently receiving from them. There were discussions regarding a perk of perhaps discounts on County cell phones, but that was denied. At the time, the new lease agreement was done with AT&T, it was already past due, however, this



Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Communication Board Minutes Wednesday, August 11th, 2021

the situation with Verizon. The old lease is still in effect. We are now at least at market rate. We will need to make a recommendation to the Commission as Verizon wants to move forward quickly and we will need to push this along. The terms of the lease will be 30 years, at \$30,000 per year. They will make one annual payment, they will send an annual report, and there will be a cost-of-living increase.

Motion was made by Pat Dunne to approve the negotiated lease agreement with Verizon as presented today by Mike Grayson, Attorney at Law; seconded by Carl Hamming. Motion passes 3-0.

FCC License Renewals

Mr. Wenger contacted Carlye Hansen several weeks back regarding FCC Licensing Renewals. In the past, there was a binder that was managed by former DES Coordinator, Bill Converse. Mr. Converse has since retired and is no longer involved with the County. Ms. Hansen and Mr. Joe Ungaretti have searched through a lot of the paperwork and files that were left by Mr. Converse as well as going through the Planning Department storage area and there is no white binder that can be found anywhere. The reason for this is hunt was due to the concern that perhaps some of our FCC licensing may be coming to expiration dates. If these expire, there is a huge cost to reapply and the chances of getting the same call signs back are near impossible, thus leading to a huge communications problem. Currently, Ms. Hansen is going to try and get all the FCC licenses all on the same page as far as contacts when it comes to renewals. At this current time, she is not seeing anything set to expire other than a mutual aid contract with Community Hospital of Anaconda, but Mr. Wenger and Mr. Dunn feel that this is something that they handle on their end. Ms. Hansen will continue to work on this and investigate getting everything in one basket and we will move on from there.

Rumsey Mountain Cell Tower

Mr. Wenger wanted to let the group know that at this time AT&T is terminating service and leaving the cell tower at Rumsey Mountain. There are towers up there for both the Highway Patrol as well as the US Forest Service. There are a lot of questions regarding what will happen now as far as the tower that is there. It was also suggested that we look to Heather Edwards, Administrative Assistant to CEO Everett, as she may have some files in relationship to Rumsey Mountain and whether we will need to come up with a new agreement for the tower. Mr. Dunn suggested that we research some agreements and see if there is one out there that we can apply to our Rumsey Mountain from years back.

Miscellaneous



Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Communication Board Minutes Wednesday, August 11th, 2021

Mr. Dunn asked what the status is with the Big Hole Radio site. Apparently, there were some issues with the land that it is on and with the landowner. This is something that we should revisit in the future.

Carl Hamming presented a rundown of the Communication Board financial statement, and it does appear that they are sitting quite well and would potentially be able to investigate upgrading Sheep Gulch Road up to the cell towers on the C-Hill.

Next Meeting

TBD. It was asked that we invite RJ Tocher, ADLC Fire Chief, and Wayne Wendt, ADLC Road Foreman, to participate in the next meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlye Hansen

Carlye Hansen, Planning Department Secretary