

There was not a quorum so the meeting did not take place.

Special Meeting

June 8, 2021

Council introduced

Choice Light and Surf Broadband

Mary Jane Headman

Patrick Wheeland

Jamie Brazo

Gene Cruze – President Surf

Bill

Jared, Jason, Perry

Mary Jane Headman – Choice Light

Choice Light provides dark fiber – provide the fiber but none of the services They are installing the fiber but will not own it...owned by the county. There is an agreement that they will manage it. If someone decides the fiber is in the way, they will be responsible for moving it. They will be connecting any users to the fiber. 30 to 36" deep inside conduit. 144 strands cable. Carriers place equipment at the data centers (2) union station and...

Company in NC can lease fiber strands to cross connect.

Connectivity very critical

This makes a continuous loop. In event there is service in NC and a line at the southern end is cut, the redundancy of the loop would allow them to continue service from the northern end

Building, business, school would be connected to the fiber network from a lateral.

SJC is paying for the backbone, the network.

Choice Light will work with businesses, etc to manage connecting through the lateral

Jamie

Choice light operates connecting different entities...non-profit, education (connecting schools grant), businesses,

Goal istoget community on this dark fiber

Partners that deal exclusively with non-profits and they give in-kind contributions to get them on

Work with any type of commercial entity who eiter needs the connectivity they can get through other provider

If big enough (ND, Beacon,etc), if they have the staff and knowledge they can do all of the work themselves

This is a portion oftheir work, they have local and regional partners as well

They like to be the middle man

Direct contact from potential user

Hnad out to service providers for quote

Providers will get a request and come ot Choice

They like to be involved with

Davey - will residential eventually be included for connection

They don't do home directly but work with providers to take it from a drop into the home and this is important piece for them

Service providers they work they help guide users through need

NC Ring will be owned by SJC but managed by Choice including their portion, mailings, etc. to let everyone know it is here and to reach out for quotes

They will let all service providers know they are coming here and are responsible

They are responsible for new contract, locates, moves,

They take locates seriously

Davey - one complaint is from 811 locaters because they are so busy...Jamie - yes one portion and it is busy for everyone

Mary Jane - agreement with SJC to manage this portion of the network is same as with they have with City of Mishawaka who installed their own network in 2011. Choice manages with multiple interconnect points but the city continues to own.

Gene - president and share holder of Surf Broadband

In 2018 their leadership team, while believing wireless is essential, they knew the future was fiber and believe broadband is an equalizer giving rural areas the same access as Chicago. He continues to use wireless and can relate to the challenges of working from home.

Transition of company in 2018 to move towards fiber and are one of the largest on the network. 5<sup>th</sup> largest provider to schools in Indiana. Offices in Laporte, Elkhart, Grand Rapids...

15,000 customers with the goal 3750 of those on fiber by July. Want to transform and partnership with Choice Light brings it into town and then Surf invest approx. 1.5 million to build fiber to every house in town. Currently doing this in Elkhart, Laporte, Goshen (45% done), Wanatah, Lacrosse. 200 current projects for fiber and would like to make NC one of those projects. They are doing the town of Middlebury and their capacity was to keep up with one of their construction crews because they do their own locates. They want to do construction during construction season not during the winter. They learned last winter that it is really difficult.

Product: offer 100 mega bits 65 250 75 to 1 gigabit is 95 Every single home gets a strand for a very consistent stable experience.

Usually cut bill in half but depends on tv, etc. and don't provide tv but provide options such as hulu, sling, etc. he uses sling at 50 a month

Were paying 220 a month for direct tv Overall approx. one half.

110 employees and growing every day

Talked to NCBCA and he has a couple copies of that presentation

Davey – installing in residence ? Jamie – fiber all the way into the house. No set up fee. No contract or commitment. They are so sure that once they have it they will be so satisfied.

Davey – will current router work

Good question – will probably work but won't work that well. Nice part is they partner with company that provides a managed wifi router they will maintain for 6 dollars a month and when there are upgrades they upgrade it. They can help with everything including password maintenance through that 6 a month router...

Patrick

Speeds – to put into perspective...watching a movie uses 5 meg so with 100 the capacity is amazing.

Jared

Functional questions as we work through the project such as timing,

Interested to similar to what SJC has – responsibility of relocation, locates, maintenance, etc?

jene

Regulated utility in state of Indiana and they own the asset and have to play by the same rules, including moving, locates and all maintenance. Should be minimal impact on community except for locating our assets. They do directional boring and work with town....they can do whatever they are asked but 24" or below is kind of the target .

Jared

Varying depths of utilities isn't consistent although we are working to change that. Open cut considerations in downtown due to older infrastructure we want to protect and appreciate working with us on those types of things. We like not being the first community so that bugs are worked out. Meeting with Perry and Jason to look at details

gene – they will have project manager and subcontractor (direct line communications is Mishawaka possibly) determine sub and sit down. Discussion on how often to pothole, etc. and would like to catch all of the stuff first,

Jared – beneficial to know that they operate as any other utilities. Timing wise we wanted to meet to connect you with council and utilities. Is there a specific ask from the town? Jamie – would like to have already started but the ask would be to figure out a rhythm . Operating with certain agreement and submit drawing and they are accepted in Goshen

Other communities they submit 4000 documents and get a bond and then later they go down one street. It would be better to streamline the process and start as soon as possible. They can build underground until January so they would like to get done before fall but depends on permitting. If we want this service, find a way to work together. Timeframe as soon as practical.

Discussing with neighborhood? Gene - yes

Gene - maintain regular comm and contact neighborhood a month before. Two weeks before they put a sign in every yard that says if there are any problems at all contact this number. Send another postcard with a link to a video that answers most questions.

Construction starts two weeks after notice then another letter and social media campaign

26x32 bigger vault in back

Will convert town to fiber as soon as possible (in place of wireless). They want to be a good neighbor and convert asap. Jared - talk about process and discuss interim as the surf air contract is expired and we should set a reasonable timeframe post construction...realizing connecting homeowners will take some time.

Marcy - what basically you are looking at happening is sort of contracting with the town and you will hookup to every house in town (that wants it, yes- Jamie. They will build the infrastructure in public right-of-way but won't leave that unless the homeowner requests it. Marcy - has Comcast triple play so if she hooks up with them? They can show you how to get similar pkgs for tv and can hook up for phone.

Jared - regulated utility like Comcast

Marcy - you are lighting the fiber and happen to be the first ones approaching us?

Surf - yes. It is a 1.5 million dollar investment in the community so someone else would have to believe in that investment in New Carlisle like they do. Saw what covid did to our communities and were committed to change.

Jared - what also has changed in 2-3 legislative sessions is investing in rural areas including setting dollars aside to expand and support endeavors like this.

Surf Air - fortuitous for choice light to be able to get funding to bring this here and same for Surf.

Jared - to make sure this is streamlined - perry Jason and clerks office will be integral and we need to determine major corridors with main opportunity and least obstacles. There will be more intense areas with utilities and tighter corridors. Permit procedure and permitting process. He thinks having a layout and idea of how they want to execute, especially on primary corridor, maybe build permitting process, being fair to other utilities.

10 AM