

Village of Gilberts
Economic Development Meeting
87 Galligan Road
Gilberts, Illinois 60136
September 13, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

President Zirk called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call: Members present: Trustees Corbett, Farrell, Mierisch, and President Zirk. Others present: Administrator Keller and Village Clerk Meadows. For members of the audience please see the attached list.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Trustee Farrell and seconded by Trustee Mierisch to approve the September 13 EDC Minutes. Roll call: Vote: 3-ayes: Trustees Mierisch, Farrell and Corbett. 0-nays, 0-abstained. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the audience.

Presentation

Broadband Utility

Administrator Keller discussed the Village's exploratory effort to determine if a broadband utility could benefit economic development in the Village. Staff had been in contact with several municipalities with a broadband utility in place. The City of Highland, IL indicated they worked with Spectrum Engineering of Auburn, Indiana who provided professional engineering and consulting services related to public-private partnership development of Highlands's broadband utility.

Administrator Keller reported that staff had met with Scott Bowles, President of Spectrum Engineering and discussed the establishment of a public private broadband utility. Mr. Bowles submitted a proposal which would assist in the following:

1. Determine basic interest
2. Determine general feasibility
3. Seek a private partner

The total cost of the scope of service is in an amount not to exceed \$26,200.00.

EDC

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2011

Page 2

Administrator Keller reported that by bringing broadband services to the Village of Gilberts it will attract new businesses, differentiate Gilberts from the surrounding communities, improve economic growth and help retain existing businesses. Trustee Mierisch liked the idea. However, she recommends bringing this matter before the full Board.

Trustee Mierisch suggested inviting the business owners to a meeting laying out the concept of broadband and seeing if this is something they would be interested in. Trustee Farrell agreed with Trustee Mierisch.

President Zirk suggested contacting Melissa Hernandez (Northern Chamber of Commerce representative) to see if she thought that this is something businesses in other communities might be interested in and explore the possibility of relocating their businesses to Gilberts.

Administrator Keller commented on defining the target audience.

Administrator Keller stated he would see if Mr. Bowles would be available to attend the October Committee of Whole Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, **a motion was made by Trustee Mierisch and seconded by Trustee Farrell to adjourn from the public meeting at 6:55 p.m.** Roll call: Vote: 3-ayes by unanimous voice vote. 0-nays, 0-abstained. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Meadows