

JUNE 14, 2023
SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING

The special workshop meeting was called to order at 9:12 by Joe Crim, Commissioner Chair. Those present were Shayla Hudson, Commissioner; Larry Rackley, Commissioner; Karen Wesner, Administrative Assistant; Bryce Shields, District Attorney; Justin Abbott, IT; Amanda Burrows, IT; and Sarah Renfroe, Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC INPUT: There was no public comment.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PERSHING COUNTY INTERNET AND NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES AND REVIEW OF CURRENT AND FUTURE VENDOR OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT THOSE CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING: OVERVIEW OF CURRENT COUNTY INTERNET AND NETWORKING INFRASTRUCTURE AND DISCUSSION OF WHAT COUNTY FACILITIES HAVE VS WHAT COUNTY FACILITIES NEED AND WHY – Mr. Abbott provided the Board with a detailed diagram of our network and how it works. Presently, the network all goes through NNIS. Also presented was a packet called IT Modernization Roadmap. Mr. Abbott went through the roadmap packet. He explained how it will take our network from a series of disjointed and disconnected network to a one unified network. Having one network will be much easier to protect, monitor and manage.

Mr. Crim asked Mr. Abbott what needs to be done to make the system work, and what is the plan of action. Mr. Abbott explained that the network needs a better system. Mr. Abbot reported that steps have been taken to upgrade and make the system better.

DISCUSSION OF AT&T DEDICATED FIBER INTERNET AND SWITCHED ETHERNET PROJECT STATUS AND HOW THE PROJECT FITS INTO THE COUNTY TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP – Mr. Abbott explained that dedicated fiber network is the most reliable. Mr. Crim asked what sites have the fiber now. Mr. Abbott replied four main sites have fiber currently, The Courthouse, Administration Building, Annex Building, and the Sheriff's Office. Mrs. Hudson asked what sites are currently up and running. Mr. Abbott replied none. Mr. Abbott explained that the game plan was to get the sites with the heaviest usage completed and then move on to the lesser usage sites. Mr. Abbott gave a breakdown of what has been paid to AT&T and what will be projected if we continue with the contract with them. There was also a breakdown of what early termination fee would be. Chuck Sayles, who was in attendance, asked about a refund due to the system being not in working order.

There was much discussion about proceeding with AT&T or cancelling them. Further action will be taken on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at the regular Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION OF UPRISE OFFERINGS AND HOW THEY FALL INTO THE COUNTY TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP – Jenn Long a representative from Uprise presented a packet to the board via Zoom. The packet contained 4 different options that Uprise is offering. Two are black fiber the other two would be through a State provided internet. Uprise is looking for a letter of intent to use their company after the contract with AT&T is up. The cost of the installation Uprise would cover.

PLAN FOR MOVING FORWARD ON COUNTY INTERNET AND NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY PROJECT – After much discussion the Board did not take any action on the matter. The plan moving forward will be further discussed at the next Commissioner Meeting, June 21, 2023.

PUBLIC INPUT: Charles Sayles made the comment that he believes in the fiber network. He would like to see the fibers put in place with no cost to the County. He stated with the “pipes” in place the County will have an advantage in the future.

As there was nothing further to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Approved 7/5/23: _____/s/
Joe Crim, Chairman

Attest: _____/s/
Sarah Renfroe, Deputy Clerk