

Hartington Telecommunications Co., Inc._Crofton_Attachment Letter G_3

December 14, 2023

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Ste. 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

To whom it may concern:

Tom Noecker, the CEO of Hartelco attended our Crofton City Council board meeting on Monday, December 11th. Mr. Noecker asked if our community would be interested in fiber optic service. We are writing you this letter to inform you that the Crofton City Council endorses Hartelco's proposed fiber optic expansion to our community. The Crofton City Council also asks that Hartelco be awarded a grant for this project.

Expanding fiber access to Crofton, NE would offer significant benefits for current residents and potential newcomers. With reliable and fast internet our area would garner enhanced communication for an improved work-from-home experience, telehealth accessibility, and more educational opportunities for our children.

Economic growth would be another key factor with fiber access from Hartelco, especially for business development, and smart agriculture. In addition, evidence suggests that a home with access to fiber optic internet increases a home's value by an average of 3.1%. This would have a positive impact on all Crofton residents, by giving a boost to the value of their homes.

The City of Crofton is in full support of Hartelco expanding their fiber service into our community. Making fiber accessible to our city would unlock a wave of opportunities for our residents and businesses alike. The benefits go beyond just communication – it's about building a thriving, connected community for the future.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Evans'.

Robert W. Evans, Mayor
Chairperson

Minutes City of Crofton City Council Meeting
December 11, 2023

APPROVED

The mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. He pointed out the Open Meetings Poster and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He called the Roll. Present were Council Chair Larry Peitz, James Murphy and Jason Wavrunek. Absent was Jamie Miller. There were three visitors. City personnel City Clerk Donna Cook & Head Maintenance Dustin Anderson.

The Mayor asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include the year end report from the baseball association. Motion by Wavrunek 2nd Murphy. Vote-Yea-Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried. Motion to approve the Minutes from November 13 2023 meeting made by Murphy 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Yea Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried. Wavrunek had been absent from that meeting. Motion by Peitz 2nd by Murphy to approve the Claims as presented. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Peitz, Wavrunek. Motion carried.

Claims: Arts Garbage \$5978.87- BH Energy-\$738.49-402 Ready Mix-\$7269.16- Blackburn & Stevens-\$17.50-Cedar Knox Power-\$2744.46-Cedar Knox Water-\$18164.01-Cmart-\$189.86-Colonial Life-\$74.78-Crofton Journal-\$176.73-Crofton Lumber-\$280.23-D&T Striping-\$1778.00-EMC-\$5229.90-CNA Surety-\$100.00-FNBO-Visa-Office-\$0-Maintenance-\$148.40-Great Plains-\$290.09-Glass Edge-\$19589.00-JEO-\$1257.50-Leaf-\$171.00-Knox Co. Sheriff-\$4125.00-Leise Concrete-\$11085.00-Menards-\$1061.83-Merkel Electric-\$599.50-Modern Woodman-\$388.80-Midwest Lab-\$300.27-Milbrath-Sayler-\$180.00-NE Public Health-\$515.00-Napa-\$239.99-One Call Concept-\$27.39-Peoples-\$8.16-Steffens Station-\$325.77-Sun Life-\$21.70-US Cellular-\$95.84-NE dept of revenue(withholding)-\$446.35-IRS Fica-\$1729.00-Steffens Inc-\$2080.54-Crofton Baseball Asso.-\$2000.00-TB&K-\$806.08-Knox Co taxes-\$1131.68-Payroll-\$9063.63-
Total\$92317.18.

There was no public comment.

New Business: The Crofton Baseball Association sent a letter detailing their years activities. The City provides \$2000.00 a year to help with maintenance costs and they asked for that amount again. They expressed their appreciation for the help. Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to give the association the \$2000.00. Vote Yea-Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried.

Tom Noecker and Casey Rossiter of Hartelco in Hartington presented plans for fiber optics to provide cable and internet to Crofton. They can apply for a grant to fund the installation of the fiber optics and it will even cover the routers for the individual homes of subscribers. They would send out a survey to find out how many residents are interested in the service. They have done neighboring communities and Mr. Peitz said they can check with them how it's going. They would need a letter of support from the city and the council agreed they can prepare a letter and the Mayor will look it over and he can sign it. A motion for the support letter was made by Murphy 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried.

Motion to accept Resolution 12-11-23-1 to allow the Mayor to sign the year end certification of the street superintendent for 2023 made by Murphy 2nd by Peitz. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Peitz, Wavrunek. Motion carried. Motion to approve Steve Parr from JEO Consulting Group as our Street Superintendent for the City of Crofton made by Murphy 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Yea-Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried. Motion to approve JEO Consulting Group as City Engineer by Murphy 2nd by Peitz. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy Peitz. Motion carried.

Motion by Peitz 2nd by Murphy to retain Farmers and Merchants Bank and Cedar Security Bank for the City banking. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Peitz, Wavrunek. Motion carried.

Motion by Wavrunek 2nd by Murphy to retain Crofton Journal as the city paper. Vote-Yea-Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried.

Motion by Murphy 2nd by Wavrunek to retain Mike Stevens as the City attorney. Audience member asked why attorney isn't at meetings and what does he get paid. He only charges when he is called upon and doesn't attend meetings unless needed to save the City money. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Peitz, Wavrunek. Motion carried.

The city needs people for the Economic Development Committee. There is money for the committee and the grants that they had started for the City businesses can resume. People are needed for the Tree Board also. If anyone is interested, please contact the City or the Mayor. The Mayor pointed out the City Policy section 1-213 says the Zoning Administrator is to be the City Clerk. The City Personnel will remain and the Mayor brought the council up to date on part time help Marlene Hynes. The grant has ended and she is so valuable to the City a motion by Wavrunek 2nd by Murphy to hire Marlene at the part time pay for 20 hours a week until she can reapply for the grant when her health is better. Vote-Yea-Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried.

The Mayor told council with no full-time police presence the City needs a City Code Enforcer. The Code Enforcer would carry out the Policy violations of the residents of Crofton. This person would present the violations to the individual and if the problem wasn't corrected advise them of the charges or fees that can incur. An ordinance was introduced to approve a new position for the city. A motion to dispense with the three readings of the ordinance 12-11-23-2 made by Peitz 2nd by Wavrunek. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Wavrunek, Peitz. Motion carried. The ordinance was read and a motion by Wavrunek 2nd by Peitz to approve the position of City Code Enforcer and to post the position in the paper. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried. Salary will be determined when candidate is hired.

Dean Wiesler notified the Mayor and had tests done about the water drainage problem the residents on Omaha street face. There was a diagram of the possible changes that can be made to alleviate the problem. Mr. Peitz was concerned with the direction of the water run-off. The council decided to table the item and have Mr. Wiesler come to the next meeting and explain the plans further.

The Mayor asked the council if they would consider renting the cement plant lot for commercial truck parking. They talked about insurance and not letting it become a parking place for dilapidated vehicles. A motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to rent the lot for \$25.00 a month. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried.

Old Business: Resolution 11-13-23-1 for the support of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act 2000, was read aloud. Motion by Murphy 2nd by Wavrunek to approve Resolution 11-13-23-1. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Peitz, Wavrunek. Motion carried.

The School Zone Lines have been painted and the city has received many compliments on getting it done.

CBDG Project update shows off the new doors in the auditorium. The South door has a push button opener. The south side also has a new ramp for easy excess. Monies well spent.

The Knox County Visitors Grant was used to put concrete at the parking area for campers in South Park. It also will pay to upgrade the Electric hook up there from 30 amps to 50amps. This will help campers to run all their appliances.

The council took a look at the recycling box costs. Many have called and asked if it's coming back after the area is remodeled. The recycling box has been a cost to the city for a long time now. It costs almost \$4000.00 a year to maintain. Some ideas were to put up a gate and signs to notify everyone Only in City Residents

can use the boxes. And to let everyone know the lot is under surveillance. Another is to ask residents if they would be ok with a once a month one dollar utility charge to cover the costs. The council would like to hear from the residents with their input about this matter.

There were three bids on the construction of 5th street from Iowa to Hwy 12. Concrete Plus at \$201,261.00. Clausen Concrete at \$ 62250.00 without rebar \$81,000.00 with rebar. Stevens Construction at \$194018.10. Mr. Stallbaum told council there is a water main on this street that will have to be dealt with. The council decided to get the estimate for moving the water main so it can be done at the same time. Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to accept the bid from Stevens Construction to repave 5th street. Vote-Yea-Murphy, Peitz. Nay-Wavrunek. Motion carried.

City Clerk Donna Cook reported on the out standing water bills. In April when the collection letters went out the arrears was \$37333.51 dollars in old accounts. In December its \$ 27970.77. Payments are being made and water is slated to be turned off quicker now with non-pay. She reported the office has wondered if every account gets a bill and she counted every one last month. There are 392 meters read and 368 bills printed because several accounts have several meters, such as the schools and some commercial accounts. She talked about the research of the interest rates for redoing the CDs.

Murphy talked about moving the CD from the bank to refinance at a better interest rate. The treasurer has looked into this and it would have a penalty of \$21.82 but the yield at 5.1% would off set that nicely. Since we agreed on a bank lets do this at this time Murphy said. Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to move the CD for a better yield. Vote-Yea Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried.

Dustin Anderson was thanked and complimented for his work on the new doors and the new hand rail on the south side. He has done all the framing and finishing on the doors, including putting down new tiles where they were torn up.

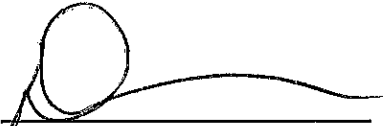
Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to go into closed session to discuss possible land dispersion, and possible contractual loan funding for lagoon project. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried. Closed session began at 8:01pm.

Motion by Peitz 2nd by Wavrunek to come back to open meeting. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried. Back at 8:08pm


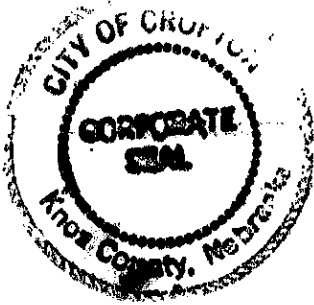
Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to suspend the three reading of Ordinance 12-13-23-1. Vote-Yea-Peitz, Wavrunek, Murphy. Motion carried. Ordinance was read aloud.

Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to Approve Ordinance 12-11-23-1 to apply for funding package #2 from DWSRF (Clean Water State Revolving Fund) total funding of \$4,744,600.00 with Loan of \$3,495,821.00 and Grant of \$1,248,799.00 on a 30-year term at 2.0%. For the Lagoon Project. Vote-Yea-Wavrunek, Murphy, Peitz. Motion carried.

Mr. Wavrunek stated he was unhappy with choice of Contractor for 5th street project. He said Clausen would have been cheaper. Motion by Murphy 2nd by Peitz to adjourn meeting. Vote-Yea- Murphy, Peitz, Wavrunek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14Pm Next meeting is January 8th 2024. 6:30PM



Donna Cook
City Clerk



Bob Evans
Mayor