

Update on Fiber Optic Internet in Deer Valley – September 30, 2020

As a refresher for our long time Owners and introduction for our newer Owners, the Board wishes to update everyone on the status of the Association's efforts to secure fiber optic high-speed Internet service in Deer Valley.

The Deer Valley Property Owners' Association was founded roughly 37 years ago when the Owners took over Association funds from the original developer. In the early years, the Association completed the roads, buried phone lines and brought electricity into our Development. In 2000, the Association undertook a complete resurvey of the 84 properties including adjusting boundary lines and acreage of most properties. La Plata County officials still marvel at this unmitigated achievement. More recently, we were the first FireWise designated Community in Southwest Colorado having mitigated 98% of our properties and all four miles of road rights-of-way.

We share this brief history to demonstrate the longevity, stability, cooperation and can-do nature of Deer Valley over its history. However, sadly our greatest obstacle to becoming an ideal rural community has been acquiring high-speed Internet service. For roughly the past 15 years the Association has explored numerous solutions that usually did not proceed beyond exploration for all the reasons rural high-speed service has not progressed across the Country. In 2009, we began service via an individual Owner hosting a dish on their personal home to receive a signal from a distant tower to then send a radio signal to our community. Several Owners put up good money out of desperation for a viable solution. Unfortunately, our topography and heavily wooded properties were not conducive to success beyond a few Owners with direct line of sight. We were most grateful to the State of Colorado Broadband Deployment Board for approving a grant for us in 2018, but terribly disappointed when the service provider did not perform, and the grant was rescinded. Subsequently, three additional grant applications have been submitted on our behalf by Forethought/Brainstorm Internet with the most recent submission on July 15th of this year. Their first submission in July 2019 was rejected. The submission in January 2020 was approved but funding was not available. For the July 2020 submission, we are anxiously awaiting the results.

Based on the State Broadband Board's web site, the Committee is scheduled to meet on October 7 and again November 12. So, within the next few weeks we expect to have a response to this latest grant submission.

In 2018, CenturyLink began offering DSL. While this has provided high-speed access to a few properties, more than 70% of our homes are still well below the 25Mbps standard.

The reason the DVE Board continues to pursue a fiber optic solution with Forethought/Brainstorm and the State Broadband Deployment Board, is that clearly this technology provides the ultimate in communications solutions for our Owners. If the grant is awarded, fiber will allow Forethought/Brainstorm to deliver consistent 100Mbps to each home at roughly the same monthly rate as CenturyLink now charges. The capacity of a fiber solution is more than adequate to deliver all current and future communication services including Internet, television, movie streaming, telephone, etc. It will give Deer Valley the most modern communications capability available.

Owners should know that a grant from the State Broadband Fund is a matching grant providing 75% of the total cost of the project. If awarded, Deer Valley would be responsible for the remaining 25%. Based on the most recent grant submission, the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$369,401 which means Deer Valley will be responsible for \$92,350.25 or approximately \$1,100 per lot. If the grant is awarded, the submitted timetable for completion is the end of May 2021, with some work commencing before winter sets in.

For the project to move forward, Deer Valley Owners, by a majority vote, will be asked to approve a special assessment. If approved, each lot will be assessed the \$1,100 estimated above.

At this point in time, and until we know more details, this communication is simply advance notice that this opportunity could present itself within the next few weeks. Fiber optic Internet connectivity is the most advanced technology available anywhere. For those of us Owners who have been working toward this goal for many years, we are excited, and we wanted to share where this project stands today.

While the information above is what we know currently, please feel free to contact any Board member if you have questions/comments.

DVE Board of Directors