



Meeting: Village Board
Meeting Date: 8/22/11
Agenda Item: 8a

Mission Statement

Delivering quality services in a courteous, cost-effective and efficient manner.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING STAFF REPORT

REPORT TO: Burt R. McIntyre, President
Village Board of Trustees

REPORT FROM: Chris Haltom, Executive Director of Administrative Services

AGENDA ITEM: Report on allowing the public to have free access to village WiFi

At a prior meeting of the Village Board, Trustee Steffen asked to have a future agenda item related to allowing free WiFi to the public from the village's Internet connections. Allowing free WiFi would allow anyone that is in the Village Hall\Public Safety buildings or parked near the buildings, free Internet access from the village's server. Staff has been working with our computer consultant at Infinity Technology to obtain information related to offering free WiFi.

Staff inquired about the pros and cons of offering a free WiFi connection at Village Hall. Infinity personnel provided us with the following listing of pros and cons:

Pros: Wireless Internet access to general public.

Cons:

1. Possibility of accessing internal village documents/servers/workstations.
2. Improper browsing while using the village banner (i.e. adult sites)
3. Possible viruses/malware attack on internal network
4. Possible blacklisting for spamming if virus/malware attack is successful (This means our email accounts could be blacklisted on some email providers listing which would not allow us to send emails to the provider email addresses, i.e. AOL or yahoo)

Given the listing of Cons, I asked the consultant how other businesses are able to offer free WiFi and get around these issues. I was informed that the village would need to install more hardware (two access points) and software to our system to eliminate possible access to our servers. The new equipment and software would limit access to websites as well as ensure the wireless guest network cannot communicate to the village's network. Infinity provided a quote for the new hardware **at a price of \$1,137.86** for a Cisco Aironet 1141N Access Point and a Cisco Power over Ethernet Injector. There will also be labor costs taken from our block of support to install the equipment at an **estimated cost of \$200.**

Staff members have obtained approximately five inquiries over the past nine years requesting access to our WiFi. These inquiries were from a possible renter of the Community Center, the tax preparation group of AARP and a few phone calls.

Trustees should be prepared to give staff direction into whether or not to purchase the equipment to allow free access to the village's WiFi.