



## WILDWOOD

May 9, 2016

The Honorable City Council  
City of Wildwood, Missouri  
16860 Main Street  
Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Re: Update on the City's Rural Internet Access Project

### Council Members:

The City Administrator and the Department of Planning, along with Council Member McGowen and the owners of Bays ET and Wisper ISP, met with a group of representatives from the St. Louis County Emergency Communications Commission to discuss the use of its two (2) emergency communication towers that have been installed in the City of Wildwood. The group included the new acting director of the Commission (Captain Steve Sack of the St. Louis County Police Department), Chief Greg Brown of the Commission (Eureka Fire Protection District), Bob Kurtz, Radio Systems Manager, and the attorney that represents this St. Louis County entity. The City Administrator had arranged this meeting, after the Department had been unable to receive a genuine update in this regard from the former Executive Director of this Commission.

The meeting was very productive and the participants from the Commission had a detailed understanding of the City's predicament relating to high-speed internet access and wanted to assist in developing a solution to the use of these towers by the City's two (2) providers of this service to its rural areas. As the meeting progressed, the representatives of the Commission noted the following in regards to a review process for this effort:

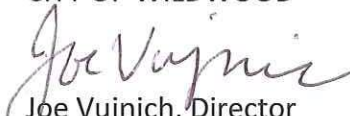
1. The Commission will hear the request of the City for this use agreement at its upcoming meeting on May 12, 2016.
2. The Acting Director of the Commission, Captain Steve Sack, and Chief Brown are supportive of this agreement and will note such at the aforementioned Commission meeting.
3. The agreement will be between St. Louis County, Missouri and the City of Wildwood, Missouri.
4. The fee for the use of the towers that will be accessed by St. Louis County will be the obligation of the internet providers and was recommended at \$4.50 per customer on the tower(s), on a quarterly basis. This fee per customer is identical to the amount the City receives from Bays ET and Wisper ISP for their collective use of the internet poles the City owns and has installed for them in the rural areas of this community.

5. The use of the tower in Babler State Park will require approval of the agreement from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the property owner. St. Louis County will assist in this regard.
6. The overall timeframe for the providers to be authorized for use and access to the towers, if all required steps are supported and met, could lead to a mid-summer timeframe.
7. The providers of high-speed internet service will have to address all engineering requirements to place equipment on the towers, agree to security clearances and obtain them for all personnel with tower access, and have the equipment for the antennas, which will be mounted on the towers, located on the outside portion of their secured compounds. The providers did not object to any of these conditions.

The attorney that is representing St. Louis County will be working with Wildwood's City Attorney to develop this agreement, which will then be provided to the City Council for review and action. This meeting represented a major change in direction in gaining access to these towers, which had been stymied for years.

If any of the City Council members should have questions or comments in this regard, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your continued support of this project and the efforts to address the needs of rural Wildwood residents.

Respectfully submitted,  
CITY OF WILDWOOD

  
Joe Vujnich, Director  
Department of Planning

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Ryan S. Thomas, P.E., City Administrator  
Rob Golterman, City Attorney  
Kathy Arnett, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Chris Bay, Malinda Heuring, and Nathan Stooke, Service Providers – Bays ET and Wisper ISP