

TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION MEETING SUMMARY

IS Training Room, Village Hall

September 7, 2010

In Attendance:

Technology Commission:

Mark Grippando, Chair
Grant Davis
Don Nichols
Jim McGinnis
Bob Blair-Smith
Scott Thiesen

Absent: Tom Nybo

Staff:

David Hankes, Internet Op Admin
Bill Herman, Assistant Director of IS
Liangfu Wu, staff Liaison

Virtualization Project:

Liangfu Wu introduced briefly the proposal virtualization project. The plan is to upgrade Village network by consolidating individual servers into a virtualized server environment. The proposed 2011FY budget includes \$120K for this item.

Commissioner Nichols asked whether staff took a look at cloud solution for server space. Staff indicated that such an option was considered but not further explored.

The Commission suggested that a list of all applications be put together for further review as part of plan for virtualization next year. The review should address issues related 1) whether the data can be hosted by a third party legally, 2) whether the maintenance agreement each of the applications would allow their application to be hosted, and 3) whether the accounting rules allow capital items to be paid off by general funds. The proposed 2011 FY budget includes funds for virtualization. However, if some of the applications are to be hosted by a third party, can hosting fees be paid from capital funds.

Liangfu Wu: yes staff will conduct such an analysis as part of the project if the proposed budget is approved by the Village Council.

Cloud Computing options:

Liangfu Wu: staff has been working with Google to look at the option of moving Village's Email system and office applications (MS Office) to cloud. However, the initial cost analysis indicates that such move may not generate any savings. Liangfu Wu said that staff will continue researching this option and report back to the Commission.

Village's New Web Site:

Liangfu Wu updated the status of this project for the Commission. As Liangfu Wu explained, the main driver behind the new design was that the staff member who designed the current web site has left the Village, and as a result, the current web site has not been updated (backend) for a number of years. In order to provide better functionality and improve the update time, staff is using different technology to build the new site.

David Hanks, Village webmaster, showed the new website (beta) to the Commission and explained the backend design of the system. As Mr. Hanks explained, the improved design offers two major advantages: 1) easy content management, and 2) a more mobile-friendly interface. As more and more people use handheld devices to access the Internet, the demand for a better mobile experience is a very important feature.

Commissioners had a number of technical questions for staff.

Commission believes that new site looks very good.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

(Summarized by Liangfu Wu)