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## 4-1 vote approves Chiefland MOU with Likwid Communications



**Chiefland City Commissioner Teresa Barron (left) voted in favor of the MOU, but City Commissioner Rollin Hudson voted against it.**

### Story and Photos

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 11, 2017 at 4:37 p.m.**

**CHIEFLAND** -- A 4-1 vote Monday night (Jan. 9) resulted in a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between the city of Chiefland and Likwid Communications.

City Commissioner Rollin Hudson voted "No" after mentioning that he was not pleased with giving the utility provider a small space (20-foot by 20-foot) on city land without having to pay rent. After making that statement, Likwid Communication President Chris Smith said the city could add, in writing, that the service provider would allow free WiFi in public parks, and in City Hall (the Hardy Dean Jr. Municipal Building).



**Mayor Betty Walker and City Councilman Donald Lawrence (above) and**

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**Vice Mayor Chris Jones (left) voted in favor of the MOU.**

The memorandum lays out preliminary guidelines for the two parties to work together as Smith and colleagues invest thousands of dollars in fiber-optic infrastructure for fast Internet service.

Just as in the agreement with the City of Williston, this MOU will allow the Internet Service Provider to insert a flyer into the utility bill to let residents know of the potential to

sign up.

Lou Newman, government affairs consultant for Likwid Communications, assisted Smith in helping the City Commission members understand some of the benefits of accepting the MOU with the utility company.

## First Hearing



**Chiefland Project and Finance Coordinator Bryan Hassell speaks to the Chiefland City Commission on Monday night (Jan. 9). This was the first of two public hearings where the municipal leaders are deciding which Community Development Block Grant to apply for next.**

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**Chiefland City Commission members listening to Hassell are (from left) Teresa Barron, Rollin Hudson, Mayor Betty Walker, Donald Lawrence and Vice Mayor Chris Jones. By a 5-0 vote after the first hearing, the leaders chose to seek a CDBG for improving water and wastewater transmission facilities, especially replacement of old pipes for water. The next public hearing will be Feb. 13. The next City Commission meeting is set for Jan. 23 starting at 6 p.m. in the Hardy Dean Sr. Municipal Building, 214 E. Park Ave. in Chiefland.**

*Photos by Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 10, 2017 at 10:37 p.m.*