

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Fuller Meadow School
Nathan Media Room
143 South Main Street, Middleton, MA 01949
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
6:00 PM

Present: Richard Gregorio, John Erickson, Paul Pellicelli

*Others Present: Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan, Assistant Town Administrator Ryan Ferrara,
Minutes Secretary Judi Stickney, Kosta Prentakis*

6:02 PM Ryan Ferrara called the meeting to order at 6:02PM

- **Organization of Committee:**

On a **MOTION** made by **Pellicelli**, second by **Gregorio**, the Cable Advisory Committee **VOTED** unanimously to nominate John Erickson as Chairman.

- **Overview of Current Contract Status with Comcast and Verizon:** Ferrara advised the committee members that the Comcast and Verizon contracts are set to expire. His office has contacted the attorneys to talk about scheduling the required hearings.
- **Review of Current Contract Agreements and Renegotiation Schedule:** Ferrara provided the committee members with the current contracts to view as he briefly reviewed them, as well as the revenue the Town currently receives from the cable companies. Ferrara included information on the projects the Town has undertaken as a result of the equipment purchased with the cable company revenue, including studio upgrades, related equipment, and other capital items. A discussion ensued on the differences between a town-owned cable access television organization, as Middleton has currently, and a privately-owned cable access television organization, as Boxford has currently, as well as what's available for Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) local television programs. Erickson suggested they find out how the license fees are generated before they begin negotiations. Ferrara directed the members to page 27 of the Comcast agreement for the license fees information. A brief discussion ensued on the various fees.
- **Goals for Upcoming Contract Renegotiations:** Ferrara provided the committee with a copy of the Citizen Petition assigned to this committee to consider the changes suggested when they negotiate the contracts. One was increased coverage of meetings and discussion turned to how that might be accomplished, and which additional meetings might be covered. Ferrara suggested that they find out from the attorney exactly what the revenue can be used for and whether some of the PEG budget could fund Information Technology for increased coverage of meetings. A discussion ensued on whether PEG funds could be used to pay Middleton's share of possible studio improvements at Masconomet. Selectman Kosta Prentakis was in attendance and advised that PEG funds could be used for that. Ferrara suggested that the committee members think about what questions they would have for the negotiating attorneys.

6:51PM

On a **MOTION** made by **Pellicelli**, the Cable Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes Secretary

Documents either distributed to the Cable Advisory Committee before the meeting in a packet or at the meeting:

1. Agenda: March 27, 2018
2. Letter from xfinity to Board of Selectmen, Re: Xfinity TV Changes, 3/8/18
3. Letter from xfinity to Board of Selectmen, Re: Annual Notice, 3/9/18
4. Letter from Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable to Board of Selectmen, Re: License Expiration Notice, 3/7/18