

**CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**Fuller Meadow School Library
Nathan Media Room
143 South Main Street, Middleton, MA 01949
Tuesday, October 9, 2018
5:00 PM**

Present: John Erickson, Paul Pellicelli, Richard Gregorio (5:24pm)

Absent: None

Others Present: Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan, Minutes Secretary Judi Stickney, Bill Hewig

5:00 PM Chair Erickson called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM

- **Review/Approve Minutes:** No minutes were available for review. They will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

5:09 PM

- **Review and Discuss Draft Negotiation Points for Adoption by the Board of Selectmen:** Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan provided information for the committee members to view as Attorney Bill Hewig reviewed it with them. Hewig noted that it will be difficult to persuade the cable operators to grant the town additional capital grants while the town still has a PEG account balance in excess of \$500K. If there are plans for the funds, they may be more amenable to it. Sheehan advised they have plans for two new studios as well as new fiber connections, noting that they have an estimate of \$281,500 for the fiber connections. When the two new studios are added to that, the total is \$438K. Hewig suggested the Town provide the cable company with a letter outlining the plans for the PEG funds. Committee member Paul Pellicelli will provide a list of additional equipment that will be purchased.

Hewig noted that Comcast's contract is for 10 years, while Verizon will only sign for 5 years. After a lengthy discussion on how much to ask as an annual increase in PEG funds, the committee decided on a 4.5% increase, to \$10,000 per year per franchise carrier. Discussion turned to whether they should negotiate a 5-year license with Comcast. Hewig recommended a 10-year contract, and the committee decided to stay with a 10-year license with Comcast.

Hewig spent a few moments explaining the bullet points in his memo to the Cable Advisory Committee, including License Term, Gross Annual Revenues Definition, Level Playing Field, PEG Access Support, and Liquidated Damages.

Committee Chair Erickson provided a brief recap, which included:

- 4.5% gross annual revenue
- Definition of all things cable-tv related

- o \$10,000 per year for capital equipment per licensee
- o Liquidated damages

Attorney Hewig will provide a memo for the Board of Selectmen, with recommendations for the contract. The committee will provide an outline of how the PEG funds will be spent and give it to the Town Administrator for Attorney Hewig to include in his "business plan" for the cable company.

5:56 PM

With no further business, on a **MOTION** made by **Pellicelli**, second by **Gregorio**, the Cable Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes Secretary

John Erickson, Chair

Date

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

1. Agenda: October 9, 2018
2. Minutes: August 14, 2018
3. Memo from William Hewig III to Town Administrator and Cable Advisory Committee, Re: Recommendations to Board of Selectmen for Cable Television Renewal License Terms, 10/9/18