

**Cable Advisory Committee  
Minutes of March 31, 2016**

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman May Paquette, Vice Chair Hank Noel, Gordon Lutz, David Patenaude, Lenny Proposki, Louis Rousseau and Ted Kosiavelon. Also present was: Samantha Carver the recording secretary. The meeting was held at the Town Hall located at 62 Arlington Street, Dracut, MA.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Present for this meeting was: Deputy Fire Chief Rich Patterson and Catherine Maloney of Comcast

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and while they waited for Catherine Maloney of Comcast to arrive they reviewed the minutes of the last meeting.

Mr. Noel made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2016 as presented. Mr. Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Noel reported on the meeting he went to at the School Department's office with a business sales representative from Comcast who explained that Dracut does have fiber throughout Dracut. Mr. Noel explained that Comcast uses fiber to deliver their services. On the poles, the fiber is interconnected with splicers, which you see hanging from the main cable all along the coverage routes. From the curb, all cable television is delivered via coax to the subscriber. Mr. Noel provided a diagram and explanation of the process in the agenda packet.

Catherine Maloney of Comcast arrived at the meeting and introduced herself and the Committee introduced themselves to her. Mrs. Paquette began by stating that this is an informal meet and greet and not a negotiating session however she did want to let Cathy know that they would be interested in three areas, local access needs, length of contract and Inet.

The Committee discussed the Inet with Catherine and how it has not worked for several years of the ten year contract currently. She explained that each building is paying Comcast for internet service. There was a discussion on the head end and that it is now located in the Fire Station on Pleasant Street to be able to have twenty-four hour access. Mr. Lutz asked Ms. Maloney if Comcast offered any discounts to the Veterans and explained how he works with different Veterans groups. Ms. Maloney stated that she was not sure if there was a discount program but knew that Comcast had some type of programs geared toward Veterans and would get the information to him.

The Committee discussed if when they sign a contract with Comcast this time if they would be guaranteed a measure of comfort that what is agreed upon will be provided because of what happened with the Inet, the Committee felt as though the Town did not get what was agreed to with Comcast.

The Chairman will do an informal summary of needs to be able to present it when they

start negotiating with Comcast. They determined that they should be ready to negotiate starting in June.

Ms. Maloney explained the process Comcast goes through before negotiating and she stated that

Comcast does a survey first and explained other aspects of the negotiation process. Ms. Maloney discussed how the video origination for DATV is a separate portion from the residential accounts.

### **Invoice**

The Committee reviewed an invoice from William August, the attorney who will assist in reviewing the contract with Comcast. The amount of the invoice was \$873.10.

Mr. Noel made a motion to approve the invoice for William August in the amount of \$873.10. Mr. Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Review of Contract**

The Committee went through the sections reviewed in contract for Bedford and compared it with Dracut's contract. Some of categories talked about were programming, equipment compatibility, access television. The Committee went over Section 5.4, Section 6, 6.6.

The Committee would like to know the balance in the P.E.G. fund. The secretary will get a print out from the Accounting Department for next meeting.

### **Next Meeting Agenda and Dates**

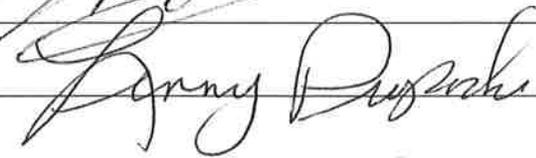
The Chairman asked the Committee members to review Sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 for next meeting. The next meeting dates were discussed and determined as follows:

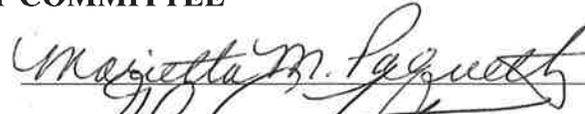
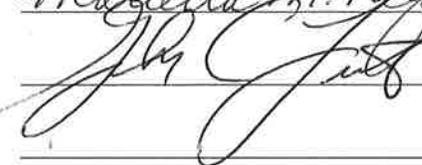
- April 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
- May 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
- May 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Kosiavelon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

  
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