

Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of February 10, 2015

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

Absent: Louis Rousseau

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Also present for this meeting were: Jack Lyons and Michael McNamara from Dracut Access Television (DATV).

Ms. Paquette began the meeting by introducing a new member to the Committee, David Patenaude.

Questions for Survey

The Committee discussed whether they wanted to send out a survey to the townspeople regarding cable service. Ms. Paquette asked Mr. Lyons what his recollection was the last time a contract was negotiated and whether they had sent out a survey. Mr. Lyons stated it was discussed and they had thought of putting a letter in everyone's tax bill but they never completed it.

Possible questions were:

- What folks think the length of the cable contract should be
- Quality of P.E.G. programming, service from Comcast, whether they've had interruptions
- Ask how Comcast impacts the Town other than entertainment – what Comcast provides to the Town such as support for the Schools with Dracut Scholarship Telethon
- How much do you watch local cable television?

There was a discussion on the process that takes place with Comcast and Mr. Lyons stated that at about six months out from the end date of the current contract, Comcast sends the Town a draft contract which the Committee reviews.

Minutes

Mr. Proposki made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2015 as presented. Mr. Lutz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Strand Maps

The committee reviewed the map provided to them by Comcast. Mr. Noel stated this map does not answer the questions he has and that when they have the Comcast representative at the meeting he can ask questions to them about the locations of the connections in Town.

Mr. McNamara mentioned the percentage for the Town and whether the Committee would consider a 1/4 % increase. He stated that the Town cannot go higher than 5%. This percentage is taken from the television portion only of the Comcast bill and is paid by the subscribers. Mr. Lyons stated that currently the percentage is 3 3/4% for years six through ten of the current contract.

Mr. Lyons explained that currently DATV is looking for a new space for their studio because they have grown out of where they are. They recently learned of the lower floor in the building they are in is available and could be retrofitted to meet their needs. This would give them almost 3,000 square feet of space. They are currently working with the Landlords to find out how much it would cost to renovate and what the new rental rate would be. They also have four employees who are full time and are looking into providing them with health insurance.

Mr. Lyons and McNamara stated they also purchase new cameras about every three years and DATV maintains the ownership of the cameras. They are a not for profit 501(3c) organization.

Mr. Kosiavelon thought the request for an additional 1/4 % was reasonable and practical.

Mr. Lyons stated they only learned about this space being available and saw the space about two weeks ago. Their current rent is \$850/foot and they pay \$1,500 a month. They are a tenant at will. In the future DATV will be doing a lot more High School sports coverage due to a member of their staff being into the sports scene.

Ms. Paquette asked if they thought they would need an up-front loan as part of the negotiation. Mr. Lyons stated they would not.

The Committee thanked Mr. Lyons and Mr. McNamara for their input.

Articles 8, 9, & 10 Review

Ms. Paquette noted that she did not have many noted changes in these sections and that it was pretty standard verbiage. Article 8 Rates and Charges discussed the notification that was required be sent to the Town on rates and charges; Article 9 Insurance & Bond coverage by Comcast and Article 10 Administration and Regulation which describes what the Town can enforce if Comcast is in non-compliance.

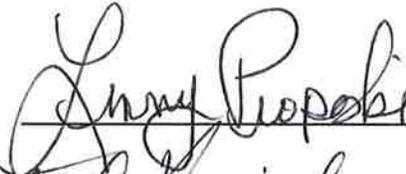
Review for Next Meeting

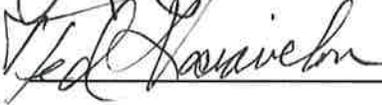
Ms. Paquette asked the Committee to review Articles 11 and 12 for next meeting. The Committee would also like to reach out to the Comcast Representative overseeing Dracut to see if he would be available to come to the next Cable Advisory meeting.

Adjourn

Mr. Noel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Proposki seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cable Advisory Committee











 Absent: Louis Rousseau