Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of November 9, 2015

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman May Paquette, Vice Chair Hank Noel, Louis Rousseau, Gordon Lutz, David Patenaude 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.

Absent: Lenny Proposki

Also present for this meeting was Ben Pearlman of Comcast.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Ms. Paquette welcomed Mr. Pearlman to the meeting. Ms. Paquette updated Mr. Pearlman as to the progress the Committee has made but noted that they have not had their public hearing yet. Ms. Paquette asked Mr. Pearlman if he could discuss any of the agreements with other towns and what they may have done as far as the Inet.

Mr. Pearlman stated that Comcast has offered an Inet buyout to other towns, the latest being Westwood and Tewksbury. In these examples it's about $9,577 a year for the length of the contract.

There was a discussion on the rates for schools and the service area. Mr. Pearlman stated that he could have a business representative contact them to discuss what is offered to businesses and he stated that different lines and speeds have different costs to them depending on what service is chosen. Mr. Pearlman stated that Comcast is not in the Inet business any longer. The Committee asked if Comcast was offering something in its place. Mr. Pearlman again mentioned the buyout.

There was a question regarding a senior discount. Mr. Pearlman stated it is income qualified and it is either $2 off the digital starter or 10% off basic depending on the contract.

There was a discussion as to whether the Town would go out with an RFP. Bedford, Westford, and Concord did that. Ms. Paquette would look into whether it would benefit the Town or not.

The Committee asked Mr. Pearlman several questions which he would get information back to the Committee through the secretary. The Committee thanked Mr. Pearlman for his time.

Minutes

Mr. Rousseau made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015 as presented. Mr. Lutz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee received a copy of the proposal from Attorney William August who has experience negotiation cable contracts. Ms. Paquette stated she had a meeting with the Town Manager as to whether they could use Attorney August. Mr. Duggan stated they could but asked that they keep the cost to not more than $5 or $6,000 dollars. Ms. Paquette stated that they can

discuss this proposal at the next meeting and she will also have another conversation with the Town Manager about this proposal.

The Committee was given a copy of the surveys on cable services received back from residents. In total there were twenty-one surveys received. The Committee will review and comment on these at the next meeting. Mr. Noel will do an excel spreadsheet on the comments.

Next Meeting

The Committee discussed the next meeting date. The next meeting date will be December 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Adjourn

Mr. Kosiavelon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Mr. Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cable Advisory Committee

Marietta M. Paquette

Ted Kosiavelon

Absent: Lenny Proposki