

Minutes, Cable Commission Meeting, May10, 2018

Meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ryan Michelson

Bruno Martins

Lee Beckerman

Cory Spillar

Joe Turant

Michael Esolda

John Hagerty

Eric Lange, ESQ.

Approval of the April 30, 2018 meeting. Motion made by Bruno Martins seconded by Joe Turant

The tabulations of the cable survey's will be done electronically according to Michael Esolda. The open-ended questions will have to be gone over manually.

As of last count there were 187 cable surveys submitted on line.

It was decided that May 15th would be the cutoff date for the survey's.

A meeting will be held of the subcommittee, Lee, Joe and Bruno on May 11th to go over the complaints called into Constituent Services. NOTE: That meeting was

held and the call-in complaints were categorized by nature of complaint for the years 2014 thru the present.

Lee Beckerman asked Charles Smith of Comcast for the number of subscribers in the town and was told by Mr. Smith that the number could not be disclosed and queried why were we asking. Eric Lange will send an official letter from his office again to inquire.

Lee reported that free cable drops were at all Senior Citizen towers in the Community Rooms. The emergency squads, Fire, First Aid, etc, according to the last contract were supposed to also get them but they are not.

Lee will send out to all members and Mr. Lange a short form of the last contract with Comcast so that we know what was negotiated the last time around.

Eric addressed the group in reference to our process and found that we were on the right track so far. Once again it was stated by him that a Public Meeting was not necessary as the survey was sufficient. A thought of a shorter contract with Comcast was discussed if their service was less than satisfactory. There are certain non-negotiable items such as price, certain channels and service centers.

The Ascertainment Report is due by August 31st then we will start negotiations. It was mentioned that all we may be able to get is grants for programs instead of services. It's important for us to paint a picture of resident dissatisfaction with services. We will supply Eric with all the information needed to complete the Ascertainment Report.

Lee will attend a cable conference later this month and will query other towns as to what they negotiated for and did/did not get. Eric will also question towns that he deals with to find out.

The next meeting has not been set. We will meet again after Eric gets a package of information for him to digest from us.

Motion to dismiss was made by Lee and seconded by Bruno at 6:41 p.m.