

Telecommunications Meeting

October 28, 2010 7:00 pm

Durham Town Office

Geoffrey Leighton opened the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Members Present: Geoffrey Leighton, John Jeneusitis.

Secretary: Deborah Larrabee

Guests: Selectmen: Denise LaFlamme, Jeffrey Wakeman

Patrick Scully Attorney: Burstein and Shur

Attorney Patrick Scully gave an overview on how current franchises are working and done.

The meeting was a consultation with Attorney Scully on Franchise Agreement that will be coming due with Comcast August 31, 2011.

There are 800 cable/ internet customers more or less.

There is very little negotiating for towns. The only other cable to be looked at may be Timer Warner.

There is a model franchise agreement at the state level that towns may access and use in renewing there franchise agreements.

The franchise fees that town now receives is 5% of the fees charged through local cable bills.

The current franchise that the town now holds is stronger than the new ones to be negotiated for the next 12 years. Attorney Scully suggested that the town renew the current franchise agreement with adjustments.

Federal law requires towns to negotiate with current vendor. Gather list of needs than hold a public hearing at a Selectmen's meeting.

Some of new items that town may want to look at are:

1. additional money for cable
2. TV equipment needs
3. Number of channels/Additional peg channel
4. Equipment and facilities
5. Additional locations for feeds
6. Unserved roads in town
7. Density/15-18 homes per a mile/number of poles and lines needed

Maybe a split on installation on these homes: buyer fees/town fees

1. Need current map from Comcast.
2. Need a business plan.
3. % wanted for Equipment
4. Renew and negotiate current Franchise agreement for 5 years agreement.

Once Franchise agreement negotiated a public hearing will be held.

Then a vote by the Board of Selectmen.

A renewal Franchise agreement may be sent ot town by Comcast.

If no franchise in effect how does this work? The existing agreement stays in force.

Or a short term agreement negotiated

Telecommunications will pay for repair of video recording system.

Telecommunications will sponsor training money for Durham School for 2011.

Telecommunications has monies for Durham Eureka Center when the Committee presents a plan. Funds \$2,000.00 available now.

Adjournment 8:15 pm.

Deborah Larrabee, Secretary