

Douglas Cable License Sub-Committee

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday September 28, 2022

11am

1. Committee Organization
2. Public Hearing Date
3. Ascertainment Documents Draft Review
4. Timeline and Steps for Cable License Renewal
5. Overview of cable moving forward and its relationship to the current cable license renewal
6. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
7. Adjournment

**Douglas Cable License Sub-Committee**

**Douglas Municipal Center**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2022**

Pat Aldrich called the meeting to order at 11:24am

**Attendance:**

Kevin Morse, Fred Fontaine

**Staff:**

Pat Aldrich, Attorney William Solomon (Special Counsel)

**1.) Organization:**

- a. Fred nominated Kevin Morse as Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Aldrich, unanimous favor.
- b. Kevin nominated Fred Fontaine as Vice Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Aldrich, unanimous favor.
- c. Pat offered to be Secretary.

**2.) Public Hearing Date:**

- a. Attorney Solomon suggested this be pushed to the end of the meeting after discussing the other items.

**3.) Ascertainment Document Review:**

- a. Attorney Solomon gave an overview of the Cable Law and how it relates to the process of renewing the license. He discussed the importance of Community Access in a post-COVID world.
- b. Pat discussed how Cable Access helped keep the business of the Town running during COVID and how it effects the future of designing systems.
- c. Attorney Solomon asked how important Community Access is to the town in general. Kevin stated that the Town is in a better position economically than the last license in 2013 and they would be more likely to consider expanding rather than cutting services. Fred stated that the current system works nicely.
- d. Pat gave a general overview of the goals & summary of the draft proposal.
- e. Kevin asked about adding the PEG channels to “streaming” content on the Charter app. Bill explained some information about going this route and suggested asking about it.
- f. Attorney Solomon gave a quick overview of the rest of the document.
- g. Attorney Solomon went over the risks involved in funding requests, and some strategy was considered for the operational budget, including a continuation of the current setup, which allows for some room in the asking price. The plan would be to start at \$119,520 with the ability to go up by 3% if needed. If the Town decides they need less, they can always ask for less year to year, as they have been in the current license.
- h. Attorney Solomon discussed the FCC “in kind” rule and how it might impact some Capital requests.
- i. Capital Budget discussion about strategy included the possibility of taking an annual payment for a lesser amount instead of bulk payments up front. This

would help keep some pricing down on subscriber bills by eliminating an 11.25% interest rate that can be passed through.

- j. Some discussion on cable service to public buildings.

**4.) Timeline and Steps for Cable License Renewal**

- a. Current license is up November 17, 2023.
- b. Pre-hearing meeting with Charter rep, Bill suggested either October 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am, whichever works for Charter.
- c. Public Hearing with Charter to showcase how important Cable Access is to the Town. In person and remote if possible. Bill suggested November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.
- d. By July 17, 2023 we should get a formal proposal from Charter.
- e. Request for response to ascertainment should be sent to Charter by June 2023.

5.) **Next Meeting:** October 20, 2022 @ 11am with Zoom for Bill.

6.) **Adjourn:** Fred motioned to adjourn at 12:39pm, Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous favor.

To view this video: [https://youtu.be/dX3JKMVSSvc?si=oaHAY3U\\_LyMoPUMe](https://youtu.be/dX3JKMVSSvc?si=oaHAY3U_LyMoPUMe)