

Douglas Cable License Sub-Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday November 21, 2022

10:30am

1. Call to Order
2. Discussion of upcoming Pre-Hearing meeting with Charter Rep
3. Public Hearing Considerations
4. Meeting Minutes 9/28/22
5. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
6. Adjournment

Douglas Cable License Sub-Committee

Douglas Municipal Center

Meeting Minutes

Monday November 21, 2022

Kevin Morse called the meeting to order at 10:38am

Attendance:

Kevin Morse, Fred Fontaine

Staff:

Pat Aldrich, Attorney William Solomon (Special Counsel) by Zoom

1. **Meeting dates with Charter** (put off until Atty Solomon could join via Zoom)
2. **Meeting Minutes for 9/28/22**
 - a. Fred motion to approve meeting minutes of 9/28/22 as presented, Kevin 2nd, unanimous favor.
3. **Negotiations update:**
 - a. Atty Solomon gave an overview of the upcoming negotiations.
 - i. Budget \$119,520 + 3% annually with the ability to ask for less.
 - ii. \$169,000 in Capital (same as current license), split up and paid annually over ten (10) years.
 - iii. SDI upgrade for broadcast signal with the right for an HD channel by written request within 5 years.
 - iv. Content origination at Simon Fairfield Library, .3 miles from Municipal Center.
 - v. Senior Discount language from the current license repeated.
4. **Next Meeting:** Proposed dates for Charter negotiation meeting are 12/7, 12/8, or 12/9, Atty Solomon will update as Charter rep replies. Bill suggested that we send the ascertainment document beforehand.
5. **Adjourn:** Fred motioned to adjourn at 11:15am, Pat 2nd, unanimous favor.

To view this meeting: <https://youtu.be/nzeRNirXStI?si=N5au2aiUmBzPKyp7>

Senior Discount:

10.5 Senior Citizens Discount

(a) For the term of this Renewal License only, for those eligible pursuant to the provisions below, the Senior Citizen or Handicapped Citizen Discount shall be ten percent (10%) off of the price of the Basic Service tier of service, and shall not apply to any other channels or tiers and shall not apply to packages or bundles.

(b) To be eligible, a resident must meet the following criteria: sixty-five (65) years of age or older or handicapped and head of household and in each case receiving one of the following: (i) Supplemental Security Income (SSI); (ii) Medicaid; (iii) Veterans' Services Benefits; (iv) the Town's income-based senior citizen real estate tax abatement, if any, pursuant to applicable law; or (v) any other suitable criteria that the Licensee and the Issuing Authority mutually agree upon.

(c) To establish eligibility, a resident shall bring or mail a photocopy of a valid driver's license, birth certificate or other document definitively establishing age, plus a photocopy of documentation definitively establishing receipt by the resident at time of application for this discount of any one of the programs listed in (i)-(vi) of Section 10.5(b). A resident need establish eligibility for this discount only once to continue receiving it so long as they remain a Subscriber.

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, 2nd by Pat Aldrich, unanimous favor.
- b. Kevin nominated Fred Fontaine as Vice Chair, 2nd 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 26th or 27th 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 3rd 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 2nd, unanimous favor.