

Douglas Cable License Sub-Committee

Meeting Agenda

Friday December 9, 2022

1:00pm

1. Call to Order
2. Meeting with Charter rep John Maher and Atty Bill Solomon to begin negotiations.
3. Meeting Minutes 11/21/22
4. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
5. Adjournment

Douglas Cable License Sub-Committee

Douglas Municipal Center

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2022

Kevin Morse called the meeting to order at 1:22pm

Attendance:

Kevin Morse, Fred Fontaine (until 2:30pm)

Staff:

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

Guest:

John Maher, Charter, Govt. Relations

1. **Introductions:** Atty Solomon opened by introducing the Douglas Cable Program as is. John Maher introduced himself, Charter/Spectrum rep. Bill Solomon, special cable counsel. Pat Aldrich, Cable Coordinator. Fred Fontaine, Chair of Cable Committee. Kevin Morse, Chair of Board of Selectmen and Cable License Sub-Committee. Kevin mentioned that the biggest usage of the Cable program is the Senior Citizen demographic keeping up to date on local govt. Fred mentioned that the govt program is extremely useful and appreciated by the community as an important and well utilized resource.
2. **Presentation:** Pat gave a presentation/slideshow about the history of the Douglas Cable Access program including: License timeline with budgets, improvements and upgrades, program notes, staff changes, and some notes on future plans. There was an error on the slideshow regarding the first year of the current license operating budget, Bill mentioned the corrected amounts.
3. **Negotiations:**
 - a. The ascertainment documents were gone over by Bill and Pat, including budget:
 - i. Operating: \$119,520 +3% annually.
 - ii. Capital: \$169,000 in ten annual payments.
 - b. John Maher suggested perhaps a switch to using a percentage of gross revenue instead of the way the current contract is written with specific dollar amounts. This would be for both Operating and Capital, which would be a change in language.
 - i. Atty Solomon requested more information about the gross revenue for review in this regard but pushed back on the idea in general, maintaining that the current license language works best for Douglas. Would need (2) years of Gross Revenue information to determine this.
 - c. HD channels would cost \$10,000 per channel per year, paid for by the Town if needed.
 - d. Electronic Program guide was brought up, but Charter doesn't do this with PEG.
 - e. Charter no longer wants to do Senior discount, it is a "rate issue".
 - f. Cablecast locations: Currently Municipal Center and High School. Additional buildout would be at the Town's cost. John said he would fwd quotes for cost.
4. **Next Meeting:** TBD
5. **Adjourn:** 2:41pm.

To view this meeting: <https://youtu.be/bXMe695FmHs?si=FiW1NmRGgfNtqOVT>