

## Selectmen's minutes of meeting

Work Session with Broadband Committee – July 16, 2019

Members present: Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley

Broadband Committee Members: Jeff Bye, Bill Haines, John Skrip

The purpose of this meeting was to review and approve the licensing application (Form 100) for Charter Communications.

The Broadband Committee had sent notes regarding proposed changes to form 100:

- 1) Section 18. This section would cite Exhibit C, to avoid discrepancies between this section and Exhibit C. For Spectrum's Internet Assist program: add links for the three eligible federal programs cited. There was some discussion whether we should request an expansion of the number of programs for eligibility, to match more closely what local electric and telephone providers offer, or to ask that Spectrum subscribers be eligible for the Massachusetts Lifeline reduced rate program. This was not agreed on. There was a feeling that Sandisfield has no standing to influence a company like Charter in any way, and a concern that any changes requested might delay the process. Jeff noted that New Marlborough has already begun pole surveys, and we should move fast on this 15-year contract without risking delay by making any further requests for changes.
- 2) Section 20. To substitute ambiguous language concerning the scope of service to specify "services to the estimated 557 premises existing in the Town outside of the Otis Wood Lands". This should not be a problem, since it is merely a written confirmation of what Charter had promised verbally.
- 3) In Exhibit C, specify plans and rates for Sandisfield.
- 4) In Exhibit D, Paragraph 2, one sentence is modified to specify FTTP (fiber to the premises) "with minimal exceptions that must be justified" throughout the network. Again, this should not be a problem, as it is a written confirmation of what Charter had promised verbally.

The Town of New Marlborough had input into the Grant Disbursement Agreement between Charter and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and was able to suggest and implement some important changes. George stated that it was important that Sandisfield have similar input.

Motion was made by Mark, seconded by Brian, to accept Form 100 with the revisions we had proposed. Passed unanimously.

The revised document, when received by Charter, will be signed by the Select Board in a meeting.

Bill Haines reviewed the draft cable television license submitted by New Marlborough to Charter. (It was noted that in response, Charter submitted its own license document to the Town, without commenting on the Town's submitted draft.) Bill noted some of the differences between the NM document and Charter's document. Some addresses need to be corrected. Some discussion ensued about which buildings were to be designated in the license agreement. Bill pointed out that the license agreement did not provide for connecting new premises after the initial build, but it was decided not to propose

language requiring this. There was no language, as in the draft, regarding public access channels, but here also no change was proposed. There was no provision regarding credit to subscribers for service interruption, (Article 7, Section 7.2), and it was decided after discussion to include that section.

Mark proposed that we submit the Final Cable Television License to Charter with the changes proposed by the Broadband Committee, plus the ones agreed on in this meeting. Jeff will be away next week, but will let us know when he hears back from Charter, and we will include it on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Board. The Board meets next on August 12 and 26.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

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Mark Newman

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Brian O'Rourke

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George Riley