

Office of  
SELECTMEN  
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023  
PUBLIC HEARING- RENEWAL OF THE CABLE TV LICENSE OF COMCAST OF MA I, INC.  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRANCIS FARM - MUSEUM BUILDING - 27 FRANCIS FARM ROAD**

**Present:** Selectman Frederick "Skip" Vadnais, Jr., Selectman George Solas, Sr., Selectman Robert Johnson II and Town Administrator Deborah Arruda

**Absent:** Selectman Leonard Mills, Jr. and Selectman Michael P. Deignan

**Call to Order at 6:00 PM:** The Chair called the meeting to order, quorum being present and opened with the Board and the public participating in the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Action Item (1): 6PM Public Hearing: Regarding the Renewal of the Cable TV License of Comcast of MA I, Inc.**

The Chair requested a motion to open the Public Hearing

On a motion by Selectman Robert Johnson, and seconded by Selectman George Solas, the Board entered into Public Hearing regarding the renewal of the cable television license of Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC. **Roll call:** Johnson, aye; Solas, aye; Vadnais, aye. Vote 3-0.

Selectman Solas began stating that the purpose of the proceeding is to continue to identify the future cable related community needs and interests and, to review the performance of the cable operator under its current cable license. The current license issued on June 30, 2014 thru June 29, 2024. Public notice was published twice in the Taunton Gazette.

Selectman Solas introduced Senior Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs, Michael Galla, who was recognized with the right to speak but not in attendance to answer questions.

The Chair recognized Atty Solomon

Atty Bill Solomon, Town Special Cable Counsel, has handled two other cable license renewal for the Town in the past 20 years. Atty Solomon acknowledged Derek Rousseau for being a dedicated manager for Comcast and making the transition to working for the nonprofit in the Town and build a tremendous community television program. The current meeting is a time to impact license and funding for the next 10 years. This hearing can make a difference and what Mr. Galla hears at this meeting and going forward in negotiations, he thinks about and, when speaking to those he reports to, can say how important this is to the Town, how it makes a difference and how Comcast can be better in Rehoboth. Here is a time to

speak and impact the license and funding for the next 10 years and let Comcast know what community television had meant to Rehoboth and how the Town wants to improve and expand to make Rehoboth's Community television a better channel.

Susan Pimental, Interim Director of Finance and Compliance, commented on what equipment the town has invested in over the last 10 years and, how the equipment has been used, how the 3 channels are being built up and plans for future use of Comcast funds.

Atty Solomon added that, from his conversation with Town Department heads, there are very involved and seek to be further involved in getting messages out on what they do so residents know how their tax dollars are being used.

Chairman Vadnais acknowledges the residents' appreciation and demand of the ability to watch public meetings. Meetings were televised during COVID and allowed the opportunity to continue governing and gave the community the opportunity to provide input.

Selectman Solas stated that the channels and videos brings events to the community and allows residents to view their peers. With this meeting, there's also hopes to find ways to help seniors in the community, who cannot afford Comcast, to be able to get access, somehow. The Town has the right, and the most updated equipment.

Selectman Solas acknowledged Patricia Vadnais. Ms. Vadnais discussed frequent loss of connection, both internet and television services, the high cost of service, poor customer service and inability to process sales transactions in a timely manner.

Atty Solomon suggested asking Mr. Galla if he can review, and speak to the technical faults and find out if there's anything specific, in any area of Rehoboth, that would lead the signal to be less than required or less that Comcast would want it to be. And, a letter can be sent to Mr. Galla with these issues so Mr. Galla can review the issues, both globally and at Ms. Vadnais' address, to address these concerns.

Atty Solomon- there's not another cable competitor building in the area and, recommends the Board hear the residents' concerns and to bring those concerns to Comcast. Agreeing this is the opportunity for residents to express concerns and problems they may be experiencing. Selectman Solas asked that the Town Administrator communicate a list of what residents are saying to Mr. Atty Solomon. Atty Solomon agreed to work with the Town Administrator & Sue Pimental to be addressed by Comcast.

Daniel Roach, representing ConCom & Planning Board spoke in support of the renewal. Daniel expressed the importance of televising hearings and meetings because it's a good way for residents to stay up to date and informed.

No one else having anything to add, Chairman Vadnais asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Selectman R. Johnson- motion to close the Public Hearing. Second by Selectman G. Solas. **Roll call:** Solas, aye; Johnson, aye; Vadnais, aye. Vote 3-0.

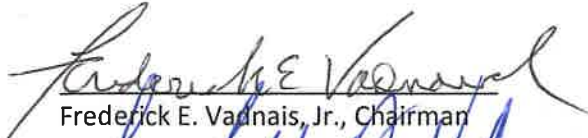
Chairman Vadnais noted that written comments and notes will be submitted and confirmed that Atty Solomon will work with the Town Administrator to address some of the comments made at this meeting.

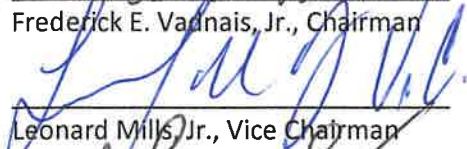
**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Selectman R. Johnson and seconded by Selectman Solas, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM. **Roll call** Johnson, aye; Solas, aye; Vadnais, aye. Vote 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Odete Lacourse

  
Frederick E. Vadnais, Jr., Chairman

  
Leonard Mills, Jr., Vice Chairman

  
George M. Solas, Sr., Clerk

Absent

Michael P. Deignan, Member

  
Robert Johnson II, Member

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Approve: 1/22/2024**