

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
CABLE COMMITTEE
August 21, 2012
DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Deb Boisvert, David Sakowich, Kate Alexander

Absent: Harriet Cady

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The board unanimously approved the minutes as written for the meeting of June 19, 2012

Old Business

Comcast: Waiting for an update from Harriet Cady on the status of Comcast's interest in providing cable television service in Deerfield.

Selectmen Room Video/Audio Equipment: Kate Alexander obtained a list of video and audio equipment installed in the Selectmen's meeting room. The committee had previously discussed concerns about audio quality of selectmen meetings and how to improve the quality. Committee members will view a taped meeting on channel 24 and see if the audio quality needs to be improved and what can be done to increase audio levels.

Franchise Renewal Public Hearing: The committee will request that selectmen hold a public hearing on the cable franchise renewal as required by state law. The committee will ask the board to hold the hearing in October. The committee will request that a representative of Metrocast attend the hearing.

Cable Contracts: The committee reviewed several cable franchise contracts for other communities. The committee discussed the length of those contracts and possible negotiation points to consider when renewing Deerfield's contract with MetroCast. Chairman Boisvert is contact the cable committee in Epsom which is finalizing a new cable television contract. The committee is interested in knowing what changes have been made to the contract in Epsom compared to their previous contract. The committee will request from MetroCast the list of 19 communities they are currently negotiating with. The committee discussed developing a list of five questions to ask cable committees in other communities currently in negotiations to gain a better understanding of what changes may be made to their pending contracts. The committee also discussed whether selectmen should seek legal counsel as it relates to negotiating a new contract with MetroCast. The committee will ask selectmen if they plan to use legal counsel and in what manner during negotiations.

Cable Survey: The committee discussed the results of the online survey completed by Deerfield residents concerning the performance of MetroCast. Approximately 40 responses have been received so far. The survey will continue until September 15th. The survey will be advertised in the Forum, The Communicator, the Deerfield Community School newsletter and a request will be made to the Union Leader and Concord Monitor to include a brief mention of the survey in their newspaper. The committee also agreed to provide hard copies of the survey for residents to complete at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office and the town library. A flyer will also be posted at the post office, Penguin gas station and Lazy Lion and Yannis Pizza advertising the link to the survey and information about the upcoming public hearing. The committee is also inquiring about providing survey information to the Deerfield Community Church and the Deerfield Bible Church. The committee also voted to create a Facebook page

to promote the survey and get input from Deerfield residents concerning MetroCast services. The committee will also request that the Deerfield Community School use their twitter account to promote the survey.

New Business

Audit List: The committee discussed creating a list of audit questions for MetroCast as part of the renewal process. The audit would determine if Metrocast has fulfilled the obligations of the current contract. The committee agreed to seek audit questions from other communities who are renewing their cable contracts.

Meeting Adjourned

7:23 p.m.

**Next Meeting: September 18th, 2012 at 6 p.m.
George B. White Building**

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by David Sakowich
Pending Approval by the Deerfield Cable Committee