

MILLBURY PUBLIC ACCESS/CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES

Municipal Office Building – 127 Elm Street – Large Conference Room

Thursday January 19, 2017 – 7:15 p.m.

Present: Paul DiCicco; Joseph Coggans; Richard Carew; Associate Member Michael Lawton; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos; a concerned citizen

Absent: Roger Desrosiers; Jeffrey Dore; Mary Krumsiek; Robert Sullivan

Chairman DiCicco opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Joseph Coggans, seconded by Richard Carew to approve the meeting minutes of November 17, 2016. **Motion** carried unanimously.

MAIL

Email correspondence dated January 12, 2017 between Tom Cohan of Charter Communications and Kevin Krassopoulos regarding the contract expiration date (attached).

Email correspondence dated January 19, 2017 between Jill Reddish of Verizon and Kevin Krassopoulos regarding the contract expiration date (attached).

Email correspondence date December 13, 2016 between Sandra Merrick of DTC and Kevin Krassopoulos regarding the Form 500 (attached).

Verizon notice regarding Fios programming change (attached).

Verizon notice regarding rate increase (attached).

Letter from Thomas Cohan of Charter Communications to Interim Town Manager Bernie Plante regarding changes to Charter's line-up (attached).

Letter from Verizon regarding Fios programming changes (attached).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MHS Auditorium – all new wires have been run in the crawl space in the ceiling for the new speakers and cameras. We are waiting for camera mounts; once those are in the installation will be scheduled and finished. We are only replacing the sound system; not the microphones. The Drama Department has approximately 10 lavalier microphones. Reminder – the school is paying for half of the new audio system.

Playback System – During Christmas week we had an equipment failure with the playback system in the studio, specifically with the power supply in the chassis. As of today, the new chassis has been received and is installed; it is a lot louder and it will be moved into the closet.

NEW BUSINESS - Contract Negotiations

The contract with Charter Communications expires December 1, 2018.

The contract with Verizon expires September 8, 2018.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
17 MAR 17 AM 8:25
MILLBURY, MASS.

OLD BUSINESS - Warrant Article

Public Access money that we receive is grants from the cable companies. All along we have been doing it the right way by putting it in a separate account and using it for what we need it for and retaining the balance in a special account dedicated for public access.

The state found that some towns are not doing that and are putting the money in the general fund. There is a new MGL Chapter 44 Section 53F ¾ stating that you need to establish a special cable fund or an enterprise fund, it's the town's choice, to preserve this money that you get in and earmark it for local access (purchasing equipment, personnel, etc.).

We have been doing it this way all along; we just need to get it approved at town meeting. Chairman DiCicco reiterated that the funds we receive are grant money that comes from Verizon and Charter, and that is a very important word – grant money – because the grant is given to the town specifically for public access and cable use and this is what we are trying to protect. We keep the principal and the town keeps the interest.

The Chairman read the warrant article in to the record (attached).

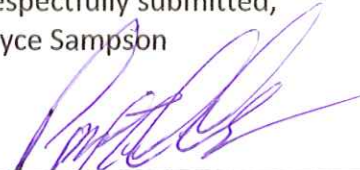
CITIZEN SPEAK – None

NEXT MEETINGS – Thursday March 16, 2017 and Thursday May 18, 2017, both at 7:15 p.m. at the Municipal Office Building, 127 Elm Street.


ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Joseph Coggans, seconded by Ricard Carew to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Sampson



Paul DiCicco, Chairman



Joseph Coggans, Vice Chairman




Richard Carew, Clerk

Roger Desrosiers

Mary Krumsiek

Jeffrey Dore



Robert Sullivan

Kevin Krassopoulos

From: Cohan, Thomas P <thomas.cohan@charter.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:42 PM
To: Kevin Krassopoulos
Subject: RE: Millbury Franchise Agreement

Hi Kevin,

December 1, 2018 is expiration date.

Happy New Year,

Tom

Tom Cohan
Director, Government Affairs
New England/NY
Charter Communications
301 Barber Avenue
Worcester, MA 01606
774-243-9735
Tom.Cohan@charter.com

From: Kevin Krassopoulos [<mailto:KKrassopoulos@townofmillbury.net>]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:39 PM
To: Cohan, Thomas P
Subject: Millbury Franchise Agreement

Hi Tom,

Happy New Year, I trust you had a great holiday season, and a good year so far.

Paul DiCicco called me today and asked if I knew when the contract expired. I told him I thought it was November 2018. He disagreed and thought it was March 2017. Could you please clarify this for me?

Thank You,
Kevin

Kevin Krassopoulos
Millbury Public Access Director
127 Elm Street
Millbury, Ma 01527
508-865-0847
www.millburypublicaccess.com
Find us on Facebook!!

Kevin Krassopoulos

From: jill.m.reddish@verizon.com
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2017 5:17 PM
To: Kevin Krassopoulos
Subject: RE: Millbury Franchise Agreement

Hi Kevin,

I will be working with the Town on the Cable License renewal along with Verizon outside council assist Verizon with the many renewals underway. **The Millbury agreement expires 9/8/18.** I will be reaching out to the Town soon to set up an introductory meeting. Will we be working with you on negotiations?

Thanks for reaching out. I look forward to working with you on the renewal.

Sincerely,



Jill Reddish
FiOS TV- Sr. Staff Consultant
Franchise Management - NE
617 342 0558



From: Kevin Krassopoulos [<mailto:KKrassopoulos@townofmillbury.net>]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:42 PM
To: Reddish, Jill M
Subject: [E] Millbury Franchise Agreement

Hi Jill,

Are you the one we will be negotiating with as far as the franchise agreement?

If so, can you tell me when your contract is set to expire? I think it is September of 2018, but I would like to verify with you.

If you are not the person for this can you please forward this email to the correct person and ask that they get back to me.

Thank You,
Kevin

Kevin Krassopoulos
Millbury Public Access Director
127 Elm Street
Millbury, Ma 01527
508-865-0847
www.millburypublicaccess.com

FORM 500 UPDATE

Kevin Krassopoulos

From: Merrick, Sandra (DTC) <Sandra.E.Merrick@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 5:13 PM
To: Kevin Krassopoulos; Tiernan, Joseph (DTC)
Subject: RE: Millbury Cable Committee Follow-up

Hi Kevin,

I am very sorry for the delay in getting back to you. We have been discussing the Form 500 and how to improve it internally but a letter was not sent to Charter. I will follow up with you on the letter. Thank you for your email!

-Sandy

Sandra E. Merrick
General Counsel
Department of Telecommunications and Cable
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
1000 Washington Street, Suite 820
Boston, MA 02118
Telephone: 617.368.1109
Fax: 617.988.8270
email: sandra.e.merrick@state.ma.us

This communication and any communication incorporated herein, including attachments, may be subject to public disclosure as a "public record," as defined by M. G. L. c. 4, § 7, and subject to public inspection, examination and copying pursuant to M. G. L. c. 66, § 10.

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From: Kevin Krassopoulos [mailto:KKrassopoulos@townofmillbury.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 4:09 PM
To: Tiernan, Joseph (DTC); Merrick, Sandra (DTC)
Subject: Millbury Cable Committee Follow-up

Hello,

Paul DiCicco and the Committee have asked if the inquiry letter they requested had even been sent to Charter Communications regarding form 500?

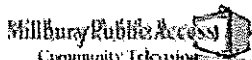
Can you please let me know if any progress has been made on this topic.

Additionally, the Finance Director decided that it would be better for us to ~~do~~ a PEG Access and Cable Related fund instead of an Enterprise Fund and we are all squared away to do so at our next town meeting.

Thank You, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Kevin Krassopoulos

Kevin Krassopoulos
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From: Tiernan, Joseph (DTC) [<mailto:Joseph.Tiernan@MassMail.State.MA.US>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:30 PM
To: Kevin Krassopoulos; DeRoche, Lindsay (DTC)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Millbury Cable Committee Meeting

Mr. Krassopoulos,

Thank you for the summary of known concerns and for passing along the minutes, this is very helpful. There was some discussion about other invitations in the minutes, do you anticipate any of the providers showing up to this meeting?

Looking forward to Thursday evening, we will try to get to town hall a little early.

Thank You,
Joe Tiernan

Joseph Tiernan
Administrator of Special Projects and Data Analytics
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington St, Suite 820
Boston, MA 02118-6500
Direct: 617-368-1107

From: Kevin Krassopoulos [<mailto:KKrassopoulos@townofmillbury.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 3:22 PM
To: DeRoche, Lindsay (DTC) <Lindsay.DeRoche@massmail.state.ma.us>
Cc: Merrick, Sandra (DTC) <Sandra.E.Merrick@MassMail.State.MA.US>; Tiernan, Joseph (DTC) <Joseph.Tiernan@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Subject: Millbury Cable Committee Meeting



Fios® TV Programming Change

On or after December 1, 2016, WFXZ replaced MundoMax on channel 20 with Azteca, featuring a mix of telenovelas, sports, reality, variety and news programming.



Fios® TV Rate Increase

In order to continue to bring you quality service, at times we need to raise our rates. On or after 30 days from the date of this bill, the base monthly rate for your Fios TV or Fios Internet plan will increase by \$3. If you would like to keep your current service as is, no action is required and any credits or discounts remain in effect until their original expiration date.

If you have recently signed up for a new 2-year bundle agreement, you may disregard this notice. We offer many other bundle options that can help you get the most for your money. Just call and a Fios rep will help find the best value for you. You may even be eligible for a special offer when you switch to a new Fios bundle with a 2-year agreement and 2-year price guarantee. Call 1.888.637.7544 (Monday - Friday 8 AM - 9 PM; Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM) or go to verizon.com/fios/5oi for more information. Be sure to have your Verizon bill handy for reference.



December 21, 2016

Mr. E Bernard Plante
Interim Town Manager
Town of Millbury
127 Elm Street
Millbury, MA 01527

Dear Mr. Plante,

This letter is to inform you of some changes to Charter's line-up taking effect on or after January 1, 2017. Charter's video lineup is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of its customers, and from time-to-time Charter makes adjustments to its channel lineup designed to enhance and improve our video product.

- WHDH (formerly NBC) will become an independent station. Charter will continue to carry WHDH on Channel 7 in SD; WHDH-HD will move from Channel 787 to Channel 777.
- WBTS-NBC, a new NBC owned and operation station, will launch on Channel 10 in SD, and on Channel 787 in HD.
- WNEU 3-Exitos TV will launch on Channel 186 in SD.
- WJAR-NBC will move from Channel 10 to Channel 17 in SD.

Customers with questions are encouraged to call **1-888-GET CHARTER**. Should you need my assistance or have any questions related to this change, please do not hesitate to contact me at 774-243-9735 or via email at Tom.Cohan@charter.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas P. Cohan".

Thomas P. Cohan
Director of Government Affairs



Fios® TV Programming Change

On or after January 6, 2017, the following channel moves will take place:
WBTS NBC 10 will move from channels 16 SD/516 HD to channels 10 SD/510 HD.
Telemundo will move from channels 10 SD/510 HD to channels 14 SD/514 HD.

Kevin Krassopoulos

From: Katie McKenna
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Kevin Krassopoulos
Subject: RE: Budgets
Attachments: Cable Access FY18.xls; FY12..xls; FY13..xls; FY14..xls; FY15..xls; FY16..xls

Thank you for the reminder. I just followed along with the previous year... Please see attached.

Also, see Town meeting language for Cable Access funds.

ARTICLE/ORDER. To see if the city/town will accept General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F³/₄, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, the fund to begin operation for fiscal year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017 or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION. Moved/ordered that the city/town accept General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F³/₄, which establishes a special revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, to reserve cable franchise fees and other cable-related revenues for appropriation to support PEG access services and oversight and renewal of the cable franchise agreement, the fund to begin operation for fiscal year 2018, which begins on July 1, 2017.