

Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 24, 2014

Mike Guarino - Secretary Ron Grayzel –Council Liaison Michael Scheller
-In addition, Frank Weichmann, Adam Liss and Ken Kim provided input via email

Administration

- The meeting was called to order by Mike at 8:10, who noted he had previously circulated the June Minutes for approval; no revisions noted and Minutes approved as presented;
- Mike also indicated there was no new correspondence to the Committee and no new complaints had been received since the prior meeting;

On-going/New Matters

Cablevision/Refranchise Issues:

- Mike opened the meeting by noting that Don Viapree from Cablevision had provided a summary of the proposed benefits to be provided by Cablevision under the ReFranchise proposal, based on the issues discussed and commitments made our follow-up meeting with him and the Committee representatives on 5/22;
- Mike advised that the draft of the proposed Municipal Report had been circulated it to the Committee for review prior to the next meeting. Almost all members of the Committee had responded and all who did concurred with the Report and approved it for presentation to the Council.
- Ron recommended that it be reviewed by the Borough Attorney, Denis Murphy, prior to being presented to the Council at their August 18, 2014 meeting;
- All present and those replying my email agreed that our recommendation, based on the provisions outlined by Don, would likely be for the 15 year term for the much greater captial contribution, since all other terms would be the same as for the 10 years. All agreed this, combined with our assesement as outlined in the Report that Cablevision has complied with the substative provisions of the current Franchise, were the key factors to weigh in deciding the new franchise term and whether it was worth going out the additional 5 years. The additional capital could also assist METV to obtain the new equipment needed to go to High Definition;
- Mike also noted that if the Report is approved by the Council, Don would prepare Cablevision's Municipal application, which would then be the basis for the proposed Municipal Ordiance needed to adopt the ReFranchise terms;
- Ron also confirmed that after the Application is submitted, we must also hold a Public Forum to hear from the public on the Report and process, which Mike noted required advertising in local newspapers 45 and 7 days prior to the Forum, which would be at one of the Council meetings with Cablevision;
- Mike also reminded all of the upcoming booth at the Fair on October 11, during which we would discuss the Forum as well as the Municipal website;
- It was also suggested to invite Rich DeSimone to our meetings, perhaps quarterly, in order to provide updates on METV activities. Mike will also check with Ken re our Survey Summary; There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:55pm.

M. Guarino 9/28/14