

Belmont Cable Television Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting Minutes 2015 APR 13 AM 9:43

Date: October 28, 2014
Location: Town Hall, Conference Room 1
Attendees:
Committee: Jonathan Green, Committee Member, Chairman
Myron Kassaraba, Committee Member, Secretary
Mark Carthy, Committee Member - ABSENT
Others: Jeff Hansell, Executive Director, Belmont Media Center
Peter J. Epstein, Counselor at Law, Epstein + August
Phyllis Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator
Chet Messer, Vice-Chairman, Belmont Media Center

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm

Minutes from June 24th meeting reviewed and approved. Minutes will be posted on the Town website.

Jonathan and Peter spoke with Frank Foss from Comcast on 8/20/14.

Jonathan also spoke with Frank and a Comcast engineer who was familiar with the head-end that Belmont's system connects to.

Since we were not going to meet the mandated deadline for completion of negotiations of the Comcast Renewal, the Town issued a Preliminary Denial what was communicated to Comcast.

Discussion of the issues and what terms to counter with to Comcast's positions.

Comcast is immovable on EPG, HD and VOD issues. Jonathan reported on his call with the Engineer regarding the technical issues with the Zion Hill head-end – he was satisfied with their explanation of the site's limitations. Myron brought up using a side letter that would be executed with the Renewal that would stipulate that Belmont would not be excluded from participating when Comcast does upgrade their head-end to support EPG, HD and VOD.

Peter led a review of the major issues.

We discussed the possibility of aligning the Term of the contracts between Comcast and Verizon.

Level playing field could be withheld or handled in a side letter.

Senior discount seemed to be acceptable.

Biggest issue was still Comcast's contribution towards capital. Peter and Jonathan were instructed to go back with our request for \$450K - \$45K per year for 10 years and would not charge interest.

Jonathan was tasked with calling Frank to set up call to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Next meeting TBD.