

Belmont
Cable Television Advisory Committee Minutes
Joint Meeting with Selectboard

Date: July 25, 2022

Location: Zoom meeting

Committee Members present: Mark Carthy, Chet Messer, Jonathan Birge

Others: Peter Epstein, Jeff Hansell, (Select Board members), Paul Trane, Representing Verizon

Chairman Mark Carthy call the meeting to order at 10:14 PM.

The minutes of the joint meeting with the board of selectman held on February 14, 2022, were reviewed, and approved by the committee members.

Chairman Carthy stated the purpose the meeting was to recommend the approval by the Select Board of the renewal of the Verizon license for the cable system in Belmont. Peter Epstein the town's legal counsel for the CTAC was introduced. He noted that this was a five-year agreement, the same as the July 31, 2022 expiring license. The renewal contains a new provision that would permit Verizon to terminate the agreement after three years upon notice after 24 months. As in the prior agreement, there is a contribution of capital cost by Verizon in support of the PEG system. Due to the potential of a termination after three years, the first of three equal payments is due within 45 days of the implementation of the new agreement, the second in 2023 and the third in 2024 each upon the anniversary date of the agreement. The other fees are the same as the existing License.

Upon questioning by a member of the selectboard, Peter Epstein introduced Paul Trane, legal counsel representing Verizon to respond to the question about of the three-year termination option. Mr. Trane responded that all of Verizon's agreement now contain this language due to the uncertainty of the video cable business compared to the option of customers streaming their video.

Peter Epstein explained the legal documents to be signed by the Select Board including a renewal statement for the MA Department of Communications. This prompted a question about Verizon's compliance with the existing contract. Chairman Carthy explained the ascertainment process that is undertaken to ensure Verizon's compliance.

The reader of these minutes should consult the minutes of the Select Board for the same meeting as well as the video recording of the meeting for details.

The CTAC adjourned at 10:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chet Messer, Secretary Pro Tem

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 10, 2023
TIME: 10:09 AM