

**Belmont Cable Television Advisory Committee (CTAC)
Meeting Minutes**

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Date: May 10, 2016
Location: Town Hall, Conference Room 1
Attendees
Committee: Mark Carthy, Committee Member, Chairman
Chet Messer, Committee Member, Acting Secretary
Jonathan Green, Committee Member
Others: Phyllis Marshall, Assistant Town Administrator
Peter Epstein, Epstein & August
Jeff Hansell, ED, Belmont Media Center
Glenn Herosian, Resident
John L. Harrington, Partner, Kerbey Harrington Pinkard LLP, for Verizon
Joshua Grubman, Attorney, Kerbey Harrington Pinkard LLP, for Verizon

Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm.

Minutes from April 12, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved. Minutes will be posted on the Town website.

After introductions by each person present and their role in the meeting, Attorney Harrington reported that due to the labor strike at Verizon, Jill Redish the Verizon employee responsible for the Town of Belmont account would not be attending this first negotiation session. He and his associate Attorney Grubman were interested in general observations of the proposal submitted by Verizon by the Belmont representatives but could not negotiate any of the terms nor did they have specific knowledge about the reasons for the proposals. Representatives of the Town of Belmont expressed disappointment that negotiations could not begin. Attorney Harrington then asked about holding negotiations in an executive session. Counsel and representatives of the Town responded that all negotiations must be conducted in a public meeting as required by the open meeting laws of the Commonwealth.

With recognition that the attorneys representing Verizon were not authorized to negotiate any terms of the proposed agreement at this first negotiation session, members of the Cable Television Advisory Committee, along with Ms. Marshall and Attorney Epstein expressed to attorneys Harrington and Grubman their concerns with numerous terms, both proposed as well as deletions, in the Verizon red line franchise agreement. Among items mentioned were: the substantial change in the form of contract vs. the draft offered by the Town, the proposed term of the license, the definition of gross revenues, the proposed per subscriber fee, provisions of service to residential and commercial customers, and customer service issues.

Three additional negotiating sessions were scheduled for Wednesday, May 25; Tuesday, June 7; and Thursday, June 23.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.