

Town of Epsom

Cable Franchise Agreement Committee

The Meeting for July 20, 2011 was called to order by Mike Wiggett at 7:10 p.m. at the Old Town H.all.

Present: Chair Mike Wigget, Selectman Don Hardy, Dave Rys and Hugh Curley (alternate- seated)

*Motion to approve the minutes of July th was made by Don; seconded by Hugh.*

. Motion carried unanimously

Mike Wiggett received a letter of resignation from Marilyn Key..

*Motion to accept Marilyn's resignation by Dave; seconded by Don.*

. Motion carried unamiously.

Old Business:

Don Hardy reported on his meeting with Moira Campbell of Metrocast. Don discussed several issues with her including the potential for getting video equipment donated as well as engineering assistance to establish local production and broadcast of public meetings.

Dave Rys reported on the difference in rates and capacities provided by Metrocast and Comcast. In sum; while there are similar pricing schedules there is a major difference in the capacity or speed of internet services provided by the two companies. Comcast offers plans that provide speeds that are up to five times faster than those of Metrocast. As an example the highest upload speed available from Metrocast is 2 Mbps while Comcast offers the option of three levels of faster service ranging from 4 to 10 Mbps. This has an impact on limiting the services both individuals and businesses can utilize. It will become more of an issue as more services like Netflix provide services that expect local service will be at higher and higher speeds.

Hugh reported on his calls to the Public Utilities Commission and the Local Government Center. The Public Utilities Commission only regulates telephone service leaving cable signals to the Federal Communications Commission. Hugh also called the LGC to inquire about services that may be available via the Board of Selectmen with regard to Cable Franchise Agreements. He has not heard back from them.

Hugh also suggested that others may want to take a look online at other municipal agreements re: Cable Franchises. By googling terms like "cable franchise agreement New Hampshire" he was able to find several. Hugh was asked to forward a link to others.

Our next meeting will be a public hearing meeting scheduled for August 3rd.

Motion to adjourn from Don Hardy at 8:15 p.m. second by Hugh Curley - passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted

Hugh Curley

