

Cable Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of
August 14, 2018

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Present: Michael Hill, Ellie Villano, Thomas Ghazil, Richard Moskal, Michael Assaf.

Meeting called to order at 2 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room

Mr. Hill presented the draft report that Attorney Bill August sent to the committee. Atty. August wanted clarification on the budget. Mr. Hill said he prepared a projected 10-year budget and he added a full-time position to that budget.

The report states the committee is requesting two HD channels. They would also like programming to be listed in the electronic program guide. Charter has already said this is unlikely because program guides are regional.

Mr. Hill explained to the committee that LCTV currently receives four percent of Charters gross annual cable subscriptions. In this contract they are looking to phase up to 4.75 percent.

Ms. Villano said they are asking for free internet for town buildings and two INET drops. She suggested they put one of the drops at the new senior center. Mr. Moskal will bring it up at the next Senior Center Building Committee meeting.

Mr. Hill said the current contract provides one free cable drop to each municipal building and school. Each building can get a cable feed and a free cable box and the committee would like to keep that in the next contract.

Mr. Moskal asked if one cable box per building is enough, and suggests that maybe we should ask for more in some of the bigger buildings like the schools and senior center. The committee decided to ask for up to 3 in those buildings.

Mr. Hill said the report seeks to address the issue of charter cable service not being available to all houses, depending on their location. He reminds the committee of an issue that arose of a resident on Center Street who was told to pay thousands of dollars if they wanted a cable drop and he hopes during negotiations this issue can be addressed. Ms. Villano said that specific issue has been fixed. Mr. Hill said he would like to request, from Charter, a map of Ludlow that shows the service areas, showing where cable is currently run and to which houses.

Mr. Hill said the report addresses the local Charter office in town and the committee expressed interest in making Charter commit to keeping it open. Mr. Hill said the committee should try to get Charter to commit to it in the license, and if not in the license, then in a side letter similar to the last license.

Mr. Ghazil said the issue he brought up at the public hearing regarding the audio levels on channel 784 has been resolved.

Mr. Moskal **moved** to approve the minutes of April 29, 2018 meeting, utilizing the Rule of Necessity due to one of the members no longer on the committee. Second by Mr. Ghazil. Motion passed 2-0.

Ms. Villano **moved** to approve the minutes of February 15, 2018. Second by Mr. Ghazil. Motion passed 3-0-1. Mr. Moskal abstained.

Ms. Villano **moved** to approve the minutes of May 1, 2018. Second by Mr. Ghazil. Motion passed 3-0-1. Mr. Assaf abstained.

Mr. Ghazil **moved** to adjourn. Second by Mr. Moskal. Motion passed 4-0.

Michael Assaf
Thomas Ghazil
Rick Moskal

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