



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
4:00 p.m. – April 6, 2006
City Hall/City Manager's Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, April 6, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** - The following were present:
- John Gregg, Chairman
 - Gene Fisk, Commissioner
 - Louis Vinciguerra, Commissioner
 - Kathleen Pearce
 - Brian Gregg

Also present were Alan Brady, City of Portsmouth Communications Supervisor and Suzanne Woodland, Assistant City Attorney.

- I. Call to Order** - Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. and asked to go into non-public session.

MOTION made by Louis Vinciguerra to go into non-public session. Seconded by Kathy Pearce. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding handling of ascertainment hearings and the challenge faced in terms of negotiation process with Comcast. Non-public session closed.

MOTION made by Gene Fisk to go back into public session. Seconded by Brian Gregg. Motion passed.

- II. Approval of Minutes** - Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the March 2, 2006 Cable Commission meeting.
- III.** The Chair informed the Commission that Jeff Landry's term is up this month and will not be reapplying. Brian Gregg has applied to become a full time member. The Chair thanked Jeff for his service.
- IV. Recap on April 4 Ascertainment Hearing** – The Chair prepared a chart summarizing the hearing. The Chair asked for a volunteer or two to look through

the ascertainment minutes from the last hearing, this one and the upcoming August hearing. The Chair stated he is also receiving telephone calls, letters, e-mails and feels it would be helpful to summarize them along with ascertainment hearing comments. Kathy Pearce and Brian Gregg will work together reviewing the minutes as well as all correspondence. Alan Brady will provide Kathy and Brian with copies of letters and e-mails received.

The Chair thanked Brian and Kathy for agreeing to work together.

V. Scheduled date for August Public Ascertainment Hearing – Alan Brady informed the Commission he scheduled the Council Chambers for Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m. for the next public Ascertainment Hearing.

VI. Milestones and Survey Update – The Chair met with Andy Smith, Director of Survey Research at UNH and gave him an updated version of the proposed questionnaire for the survey of Portsmouth residents regarding Comcast and interest in additional PEG access channels. Mr. Smith will be giving us a proposal, and he anticipates the center can actually begin the survey before the end of the month. We would then have results by late May early June: data and graphs but not interpretation. The price will be about \$5,000. The Chair explained the reason we are working with UNH is we found Comcast wasn't willing to incorporate our questions into theirs.

Kathy Pearce referred to question 6 of the survey and asked if this could be changed to School Board as opposed to Board of Education. The Chair will make this change.

Brian Gregg commended the Chair on the excellent job on the summary.

The Chair next opened discussion regarding the need to set up conversations with other communities to see if they might have some interest in public access and working together. Alan Brady stated there seems to be interest from Rye and Greenland. He proposed sending a letter to appropriate people in surrounding communities to see if they have an interest in sharing an additional channel and if so, their willingness to participate in discussion on June 1st. Newmarket and New Castle will be included as well as Rye and Greenland. Louis Vinciguerra suggested having the June 1st meeting start at 3pm rather than 4pm. It was agreed to move forward in setting up this meeting.

Brian Gregg asked what the October date was for. Suzanne Woodland responded that we have a work session with the City Council on October 16th.

Brian Gregg suggested to the tabulation he will be working on with Kathy and suggested doing it on a monthly basis and then report back the following month. Alan Brady said that would be fine.

The Chair proposed canceling the May commission meeting since there did not appear to be key agenda items for it.

MOTION made by Gene Fisk to cancel the May meeting and go right to June. Seconded by Louie Vinciguerra. Motion passed.

VII. Other discussion –

Kathy Pearce asked to share several thoughts about developing PEG access: Bedford and Manchester are now vibrant PEG communities needed some allocation of franchise fees from the city to get up and running, ascertainment hearings have produced some comments about what could be better done with the Government channel as well as adding additional ones, and cable franchise fees are not a “tax” on residents in the sense they are collected only from cable subscribers.

Brian Gregg asked for clarification about the Charter of the Commission i.e. how broad is the mission and authority. It was pointed out that the stated Charter is focused on negotiating cable franchise agreements. After limited discussion, it was suggested that the Commission may wish to offer to rewrite the Charter when the current round of franchise negotiations are well underway.

VIII. Adjournment: MOTION to adjourn made by Gene Fisk. Seconded by Louis Vinciguerra. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, _____
Elaine E. Boucas