



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
3:30 p.m. – August 2, 2007
City Hall/City Manager’s Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday August 2, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

The following were present:

John Gregg, Chairman
Louis Vinciguerra, Commissioner
Brian Gregg, Commissioner
Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
Gary Lowe, Alternate Commissioner

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

- I. Call to Order** - Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes – July 5, 23007** - Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the July 5, 2007 meeting. Motion passed.
- III. Fair Point Update** - Suzanne Woodland updated the Commission regarding recent meetings she attended. She indicated that the city had some concerns regarding utility pole construction and noted that Verizon has not yet deployed FIOS to the entire city of Portsmouth. Fair Point officials will be meeting with the Public Works Director to discuss these and other matters. She reported that primary concern most opponents of the proposed sale have is related to financial stability. That subject is being carefully investigated by the state. She reported that Fair Point has indicated their willingness to role out video service at some point but offered no specifics.

Commissioner Brian Gregg reported his surprise when told by Verizon that FIOS service is not available where he lives. Suzanne Woodland agreed to look into this.

There was discussion regarding the price of video service provided by Comcast and the desirability of competition. The Chair reported receiving notice from Comcast of a rate increase from \$9.95/month to \$12.95/month for the DVR service which allows you to record programs - a 33% increase but offering nothing new in return.

Commissioner Brian Gregg asked for clarification as to the ability of the city or Commission to influence Comcast pricing. Commissioner Vinciguerra responded that the city could elect to regulate only the basic tier of service i.e. about the first \$12 dollars of the monthly bill.

Suzanne Woodland volunteered to look into whether there is a cycle coming up where Comcast will be going to the FCC on rate making and to determine how the city could communicate concerns regarding pricing to the FCC.

The Chair asked Suzanne Woodland what her recommendation would be with regard to expressing the city and Commissions views about the importance of Verizon and/or Fair Point following through on their intent to provide video service in Portsmouth. Ms Woodland recommended "sitting tight for another couple of weeks." She would expect to have something to report at the next meeting. If she does not, the next step would be to forward the Motion passed two months ago to the City Council asking that the city say "no" to the deal unless we get X,Y and Z.

Ascertainment Hearing Comments - Brian Gregg reported there were six other comments that came in via e-mail before the close of the ascertainment process on June 30th. He incorporated them into the summary table previously reviewed by the Commission and forwarded to Comcast. Suzanne Woodland will forward this updated copy to Comcast.

Next Commission Meeting - The Chair suggested not having the September meeting unless something develops with either Comcast contract negotiations or Fair Point. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting of October.

Other - For future discussion Brian Gregg stated he has been approached about the idea that some municipalities have decided to deploy WIFI throughout the City in the interest of the community and was asked if this is something the Commission should investigate / plan for.

It was pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission have been working on this, but it is not known what the current activity is. Suzanne Woodland will determine this and report back.

VI. Non-Public Session (meeting with Legal Counsel)

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

The Commission then went into non-public session.

MOTION made by Kathy Pearce to go back into public session. Seconded by Gary Lowe. Motion passed.

Next Meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2007 unless something develops.

V. Adjournment - MOTION made by Brian Gregg. Seconded by Louie Vinciguerra. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas, Recording Secretary