



**Portsmouth  
Cable Commission Meeting  
3:30 p.m. – June 10, 2010  
City Hall/City Manager's Conference Room**

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The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** - The following were present:
- John Gregg, Chairman
  - Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
  - Brian Gregg, Commissioner
  - William Southworth, Commissioner
  - Nancy Beach, Commissioner

Also present were Suzanne Woodland, Asst. City Attorney and Peter Bresciano.

Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.

- II. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2010** - The minutes of the April 10, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Appointment of Individual to PPM Budget Review Committee** – Chairman Gregg updated the commission regarding progress of the Portsmouth Public Media Board, and informed them that the board has asked to meet with the Public Access Trust Financial Advisory Committee for purpose of accessing money which has been placed in it. The amount put into the trust for the last fiscal year was \$43,555.42. According to the Trust Agreement, the Portsmouth Public Media Board may annually submit a budget to be reviewed by appointees of the Cable Commission, the City Manager and the City Council (total of 3). These three people would review the budget and request that the Trustees of the Trust Fund issue the check. Brian Gregg volunteered to serve in this capacity for the Cable Commission.
- MOTION** made by Nancy Beach to appoint Brian Gregg on the Public Access Finance Committee. Seconded by Kathy Pearce. Motion passed.
- IV. Update on High Speed Telecommunications Development** – Commissioner Southworth reported that he had set up an appointment to meet with the Director of Broadband Development for the state of New Hampshire. Brian Gregg offered to join him. The Chair suggested Alan Brady may be interested in attending as well.

After some discussion of the role the Commission might play in promoting further developments in high speed telecommunications in Portsmouth, Nancy Beach suggested having a retreat on this topic in the fall. No action was taken.

- V. **Other Business** - Commissioner Southworth referenced some difficulty residents of Tidewatch Condominiums were having in getting satellite television service due to condominium restrictions. He explained that his understanding was that the right to do so was established by the FCC and asked if the Commission should intercede.

Suzanne Woodland responded that generally the City avoids getting involved in disputes between individual owners of condominiums and condo associations. However, she acknowledged that there are city ordinances regarding antennas and dishes. She agreed to give some thought to the appropriate role of the city and commission and report back.

Peter Bresciano, Portsmouth resident, presented his concerns of what Comcast is currently doing in moving channels and reducing the number of channels available to customers who do not have digital video packages and Comcast digital boxes attached to each television set in the house. He felt the public was not being properly served and the Commission should be aware of this in considering future a franchise contract. He felt the city would be better served with competing cable franchisees. Suzanne Woodland stated that the current Contract does not preclude and, in fact, expressly allows additional competition. Should Fairpoint in the future be ready to bring video to Portsmouth, they just need to negotiate a Franchise Agreement with similar terms. Mr. Bresciano thanked the Committee for their time.

Network neutrality issues will be discussed at the July meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2010

- V. **Adjournment**