

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
DECEMBER 22, 2008

MEETING: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were Selectman Sheppard, Murray and Sushchyk.

AGENDA: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to amend the agenda, adding discussion about the Treasurer/Collector. 2nd by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING
CONTINUATION OF
BREACH HEARING:

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to open the public hearing for the continuation of the breach hearing. 2nd by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.
Robert Bloom, member of the Cable Committee, turned the hearing over to Attorney William Solomon. Attorney Solomon recommended continuing the breach hearing until after the Board dealt with the license renewal.

LICENSE RENEWAL: A proposed contract for a 10 year renewal was submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Attorney Solomon introduced Mr. Tim Kelly, Manager for Comcast. Attorney Solomon will supply the Board with an executive summary. Mr. Kelly provided the Board with updates on new connections to homes and outlined the areas and homes that they were unable to service due to cost and population on certain roads. Attorney Solomon credited the Cable Committee for their hard work and persistence in getting the new homes connected.

The group discussed the connection of the 1835 Town Hall and the Municipal Butterick Building with live feeds to "Head-End" at the Ice Cream Bar on Rte 62. The estimated cost for this project is \$44,000, Comcast donating \$50,000 just in case. Selectman Sushchyk questioned the Cable Committee regarding their vision for cable services. Mr. Bloom explained that he would like to see the equipment housed in the Butterick Building and broadcast live from the site. He added that he would eventually like to see the fiber run to the Chocksett School. Mr. Kelly explained that Comcast will control everything to the "Head-End". Attorney Solomon reported that Lancaster Studio broadcast will also come to Sterling.

Attorney Solomon discussed the full definition of Gross Annual Revenue and the 5% maximum revenue pay back to the town as allowed by the State. Attorney Solomon agreed to take a look at the quarterly revenue amount to see if it was in the ball park as a courtesy to the town, and then an audit will be done if necessary.

Selectman Sushchyk questioned how the rates were set. Mr. Kelly explained that only the basic plan is regulated by the state. The rates cannot be controlled but the town does own the public right of way so that taxpayers should be compensated for its use. This new license will do that and the revenue will go toward Public Access for Sterling citizens.

Selectman Sushchyk polled the Cable Committee, asking each of them if they were satisfied with the new cable contract. Robert Bloom, Dick Maki and Joe Gunther all voted yes, stating that this contract is light years better than the last contract. Mr. Gunther thanked Mr. Kelly for his cooperation. Selectman Sushchyk asked Mr. Kelly if the contract was acceptable to Comcast. He replied that it was.

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to accept the new contract, 2nd by Selectman Sheppard.

Sushchyk	Aye
Sheppard	Aye
Murray	Aye

The Board unanimously voted to accept the Comcast contract.

CONTINUATION OF
BREACH HEARING

7:35 PM:

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to dismiss the breach hearing as those issues are now moot. 2nd by Selectman Sheppard. The Board unanimously voted to dismiss the breach hearing.

The Breach hearing adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Selectman Sheppard thanked the Cable Committee for the tremendous amount of work they put in to negotiating this contract. He also thanked Mr. Kelly

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:55 PM. 2nd by

Selectman Sheppard.	Sushchyk	Aye
	Sheppard	Aye
	Murray	Aye

All in favor.

STORM UPDATE:

The Board reported the state of emergency will probably be lifted Wednesday at 11:00 AM. About 20 individual homeowners still do not have power. Selectman Sushchyk expressed the need to fine tune certain issues for the next time. He commended Chief Chamberland and Chief Hurlbut for doing a yeoman's job. Chairman Murray also expressed his appreciation for the DPW and the Light Department for doing a fantastic job on clearing debris and the hours worked day and night. Selectman Sheppard also thanked Gene Capucci for his dedicated service at the Housing Authority and Sholan Terrace.

WRSD BUDGET TASK

FORCE:

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to appoint Selectman Sheppard as their representative to the WRSD Budget Task Force. 2nd by Chairman Murray. All in favor.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

DONNA ERICKSON:

Selectman Sheppard explained that Donna Erickson was doing an exemplary job and made the motion to increase her salary \$1000. Selectman Sushchyk 2nd the motion, stating that Ms. Erickson has proven herself more than capable and deserves the increase. All in favor.

SELECTMEN'S

BREAKFAST:

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to have the Selectmen's breakfast on January 9, 2008 from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. 2nd by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to adjourn at

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

PAUL M. SUSHCHYK
CLERK