

**Communication Technology Advisory Board Meeting
February 13, 2007
Minutes**

Members Present:
Donna McClellan
Mel Bernstein
Chris Gervais
Mark Hichar
Leon Barzin
Lee MacQuarrie
Steve Anderson

Members Absent:
Beth Ahern
Mike Jaillet

I. MINUTES:

No minutes were reviewed at this meeting.

II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Accomplishments for January were distributed at this meeting

III. OLD BUSINESS

Verizon Cable Television License –

A CTAB meeting was held after a public hearing for the Verizon Cable Television License. The Selectmen voted at the Public Hearing to accept the negotiated terms of the agreement with Verizon and issued a license to Verizon to provide cable television service for a ten-year term through February 2017.

The following is a summary of the public hearing:

Mel Bernstein provided a brief history of the negotiations between the CTAB and Verizon which began more than two years ago. A meeting in mid January with the CTAB Cable subcommittee and Verizon resulted in a proposal that was presented at the public hearing. Mr Bernstein explained that the CTAB is concerned that the time limit of 48 months to provide service to the entire town is too long. Verizon representative Jim McGrail and Peter Bowman explained that it was in Verizon's best interest to provide service to the entire town as quickly as possible.

The Board of Selectmen asked CTAB counsel, Peter Epstein if the agreement between Verizon and was matching the Comcast license so that there is a level playing field. Peter Epstein stated that the agreement was matching the ComCast agreement. Town Counsel, Tom said he was satisfied that the license before them was a good license and that it met the level playing field requirements.

Verizon representatives reiterated that they are motivated to complete the Westwood build out as quickly as possible noting that 1) all aerial wiring is done. 2) 10% of all underground is completed 3) Verizon must still negotiate with MDUs (buildings with more than 3 residences).

Several Westwood residents spoke in support of the license including Paul Kelly (107 Willow Circle,, Mike Greenway, Rob Nager (281High Street) and Joe Laeth (370 Oak Street

Ms. Hyde from the BOS congratulated the CTAB for their hard work on this license. The Board of Selectmen expressed a concern for the identified 48 months to complete wiring of the town, however they will accept Verizon's verbal commitment to complete as quickly as possible.

Town Counsel agreed to close the public hearing and the discussion on the contract. Mr. McCusker moved to approve the license. Motion by Ahern to accept license was seconded by Hyde to issue the license for a ten year term to 2017.

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IV. NEW BUSINESS

Public Television Broadcasting –

This CTAB has now made public television access a high priority. This is especially needed since only those Comcast customers now will receive public meeting broadcasts. Verizon cable TV customers will not have a public access feed. Once a studio is built in town and broadcasting begins, a feed can be provided to both Comcast and Verizon.

V. OTHER BUSINESS - none reported.

VI. PUBLIC & PRESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be on March 13th at 7:30pm, at the Senior Center.