



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
4:00 p.m. – March 2, 2006
City Hall/City Manager's Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

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

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 4:00 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes** - Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the February 2, 2006 Cable Commission meeting.

Review Proposed Milestones – Suzanne Woodland presented a set of milestones for use by the Commission in considering the need for additional PEG access channels and equipment and negotiating with Comcast. She referred to a key date as October 16 when the Commission is tentatively scheduled to make recommendations to the City Council in a work session regarding desired outcomes of negotiations.

There was discussion of various elements of the set of milestones.

With regard to Ascertainment Hearings, Gene Fisk indicated he would like to schedule a firm date in August to receive additional public commentary about PEG access channels. He also recommended focusing the April hearings on non-profit organizations and City Departments.

MOTION made by Gene Fisk to hold the April 19th date as a potential overflow if we don't get through all the comments on April 4th for non-profits and city departments, not to invite the public at large to the April hearings but to invite the public to a yet to be scheduled August ascertainment hearing. Seconded by Jeff Landry. Motion passed.

MOTION made by Gene Fisk to accept the proposed franchise negotiating milestone dates as presented. Seconded by Louis Vinciguerra. Motion passed.

Ascertainment Hearing Update and Survey Status – The Chair stated that since the last meeting, letters have been sent to about 100 different non profit organizations and the City Departments inviting them to either respond in writing or speak at the April 4th ascertainment hearing or both. Two written responses have already been received from Sue Donahue Suter United Way and Kathie Lynch Portsmouth Little League and are attached as part of these minutes. There was discussion about how to manage the meeting if there is a large turnout. The Chair asked Alan Brady if he could establish a procedure to estimate the size of the turnout. Alan Brady stated he will monitor, count the letters received and at the end of March contact the organizations to see if they will be attending and speak. Alan will have some feedback prior to the 4th.

The Chair reported that Comcast has preliminarily agreed to incorporate the Commission public survey into the one planned by Comcast for August of this year. Next steps will be 1. Comcast will come up with a draft incorporating what they want to ask as well as what the Commission has proposed. 2. Comcast will review the possibility of advancing their survey to May as opposed to August. We hope to have a response from Comcast within the next couple of weeks.

III. Other Discussion

Alan Brady stated that Art Murphy came to his office and dropped off a music DVD to play on the public access station if there was one. It was very professionally done. This is an example of what could be put on a public access channel were Portsmouth to have one.

The Chair stated it is time to be thinking about and set up a meeting with other communities to discuss possible mutual interest in public access television. Alan will work with him in doing this.

VI. Public Comment Session – No one was present.

MOTION made by Brian Gregg to go into non-public. Seconded by Jeff Landry. Motion passed.

Discussion regarding the legal interpretation of the existing contract and impact on strategy of future contract negotiations.

Non-Public Session closed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine E. Boucas

